Beyond the cover

2012 Memories

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Merrillvue
Merrillville High School
276 E. 68th Place
Merrillville, IN 46410
Volume 87
219-650-5307
Enrollment 2312
www.mvsc.k12.in.us/mhs

"My biggest goal is to go to college. I want to possibly get out of Indiana and become a lawyer."

-Jonathon Strek

"If I could travel back in time, I would go to the 1800s and wear a fancy dress. It seems like a calm time."

-Naphtalia Ruth

"My biggest goal is to become Tracy Turnblad from 'Hairspray' in a musical. That would make my life because she is my idol!"

-Cassandra Govert

"If I could change something about myself, I would change my height. I want to be taller. I don't like being short because I want to see over people."

-Rayquané Forté

"My favorite memory is being an exchange student here. I met a lot of people."

-Alma Kukavica

"My goal is to be the beat writer for the Indianapolis Colts. I would get to talk to the coaches and players."

-Jacob Larson

"I'm loud. I'm kind of cautious. I'm a 'whatever' kind of girl. I just make people laugh and make them have fun."

-Jada Jones

"I would say that I'm very original in the way I act. I act differently depending on the day."

-Anthony Harwood

"A lot of people don't know that I'm in the process of writing a book. I don't talk about it much."

-Francesca Bricker

"I want to be an international musician. I want to be able to travel."

-Joseph Gawrysiak

"My favorite memory is anything football. Playing football at this school has been the best time of my life."

-Michael Dicken

Beyond what you see...

THEN

Seniors Jalisa Mosley & John Mosley

"We've always been each other's biggest fans and I will truly miss seeing each other every single day and laughing at every single thing," Jalisa said. "These past few months we've had conversations about how we chill in each other's rooms and talk, watch movies or play the game together and how come August it'll be 'hey sis' or 'hey bro' when are you coming home from school for Christmas break? We have our own little language too. As we go our separate ways for college, I just want Rock to know that I love him to pieces and I know he'll succeed in all of his future endeavors."

John responded. "Laughing every time someone asks 'who's the older' or 'are you identical?' You being at all the games. Biggest fan. Appreciate it. All your critiques with the limited vocabulary because you didn't know how to say it but I always managed to make meaning of it. Getting in trouble matching outfits in younger pictures sharing birthday cakes and parties sharing Subway sandwiches (confusing the halves and eating each other's half accidentally). Always arguing about the pettiest things. Who's smartest? I still own that one, sorry. You playing with me and you pretending to be interested in boy things to keep me company. Love you for that (Power Rangers Playing Outside). Me, on the other hands, filling in at Barbie time when you couldn't find anybody else to. Sometimes I don't think you realized I was a boy and didn't want to be caught dead with a Barbie in my hand. Still always willing to lend a helping hand when necessary and not matching your efforts is nearly impossible."

Juniors Emma Bice & Kara Phillips

"We're like the same person. We do the same sports, clubs, everything," Bice said. The two inseparable friends met in fifth grade when they were placed in the same homeroom class at Merrillville Intermediate School. "We do everything together," Phillips said. "We have the same viewpoints. We've never even had a fight, not even a small one." Every spring break since seventh grade, the two take a trip to Daytona Beach, Florida. "It's really fun and we go every year," Phillips said.

Sophomores Rachel Humes & Kennedy Wilck

"We lived around the corner from each other and we were in the same kindergarten class," Humes said. "We have the same sense of humor and we like the same stuff."

This pair of best friends have a strong friendship and do not let even the smallest things get in the way. "We know nothing can come between us, no matter what," Wilck said. Both Wilck and Humes said that their favorite memory together is taking a trip to Bloomington and going tubing on a lake two years ago.

and NOW

'90s Style Revamped

Each year a style from the past comes back. This year, the students of Merrillville High School walk around showing off the 1990s fashion. Students have showboated different trends anywhere from door-knocker earrings to loafers.

Junior Danielle Johnson enjoys rocking her Vintage Coach purse. "It puts a vintage twist on my modern-day style," Johnson said.

Senior John Dates Jr., who started exploring different trends from the '90s stated, "I mix a lot of styles that most people do not mix."

Senior Jazmyn Thomas enjoys shopping at thrifty places. "I like to shop at places that have good material clothes that are not too expensive," said Thomas.

Teens at Merrillville High School are seen showing off different looks, from clothes to hair. The '90s is making a comeback; its impact on fashion will always be advancing.

Crop Denim Jacket, $24.50.
WET SEAL
"I love to wear my denim jacket because I can wear it as either a jacket or a shirt by it self," Sophomore Tatiana Starks said.

Influenced by Kourtney Kardashian, Junior Danielle Johnson is into the bohemian-chic style. "I was always into fashion but last year I began to take more risks," said Johnson. She likes to go simple with a bold statement, like a red lip or accessories. "I like to express my personality through what I wear," Johnson added.

Combat Boots, $36.90.
FOREVER 21
"Combat boots are my way to dress down my outfits, but also make a statement," Junior Breyanna Wilson said.

Senior John Dates Jr. started to dress in his 1990s fashion in the summer of 2011. Dates said his inspiration for his 1990s style is, "They weren't big on matching and were freer with their choices of fashion." He also went on to say "I compare my style to a citizen of a large population."

Inspired by pop singer Rihanna's '90s vintage style, Senior Jazmyn Thomas shows off her outfit. "I like how you can be different and it still looks good depending on how you wear it," Thomas said. "I go outside the box and dress how I feel on certain days."

Beyond The Faces

In the main cafeteria, Junior Carlyn Jones eats her lunch with friends. "The best part of lunch this year was hanging out with my friends," Jones said. Across the table Junior Brandan Snow uses lunch as a time to do school work. "The worst part of lunch is leaving my friends and going back to class," Snow said.

Waiting for Sophomore Ronnie Giles Jr. to purchase his lunch, Senior Paul Carey talks with the rest of the students in the line. "The freshman lunchroom has a lot more variety when you just enter one line. In the regular lunch room you have to pick a separate line and sometimes it's not the food you want," Carey said. Carey states that the best meal is Bosco Sticks.

Sitting at Sophomore Elise Anguiano's locker Junior Avery Someshimo enjoys social time in the morning. "I would rate having a locker a 10. They help you with carrying books around," Anguiano said. Someshimo and Anguiano both agreed their year has gone by quickly.

FRESHMEN

Class Of 2015

Amanoemi Acosta
Emmanuel Agbana
Israel Akinbobuyi
Harmoni Alexander
Kierra Alexander
Maryam Ali
Ayana Allen

Diamond Allen
Jayson Allen
Ashley Ammons
Brittany Anaya
Justin Anderson
Julion Andrews
Johnathon Arce

Angelica Arreguin
Payton Ash
Vincent Ashley
Ja'Nay Askew
James Austin
Jamerra Bailey
Kya Bailey

Jaquaun Bailey-Taylor
Ahj Baker
Jordan Baldwin
Dorian Balensiefen
Mikey Ballard
Dayvion Bandy
Lauren Banks

Damen Banks Jr
Reynaldo Barajas
Alexis Barron
Asia Barron
Linda Basemore
Anthony Bass
Cynthia Basu-Chavez

Stone Battles
Janel Baylor
Ebony Beasley
Julian Bell
Ashley Benkert
Mark Benyoun Jr
Deontre Bethel

Terica Bethel
Alex Blanco
James Blevins Jr
Michael Bogard
Faith Bonner
Mckinley Boone
Kody Bowen

Jannel Boyd
Cameron Bracey
Bradley Brack
Sarah Bradash
Victoria Bradley
Kalaunda Bradshaw
Ryon Brady

Kara Bramson
Jorge Brava
Mitchell Brayfield
Ayssia Broaders
Kayla Brock
Isaiah Broden
Zachary Bromberg

Cameron Brooks
AnthanyShia Brawn
Deva Brawn
Dominique Brawn
Jeremy Brawn
Kameran Brawn
Seriah Brawn
Trenton Brown

Alonzo Brawn II
Alexander Brumfield
Daiyan Bryant
Daylen Bryant
Timothy Bryant Jr
Micah Burgstahler
De Juante Burnett
Thomas Butler Jr

Crystal Cabrera
Rick Calhoun
Starr Callicott
Imani Campbell
Lily Campbell
Alice Canchola
Mariona Cantu
Anyssa Carbajal

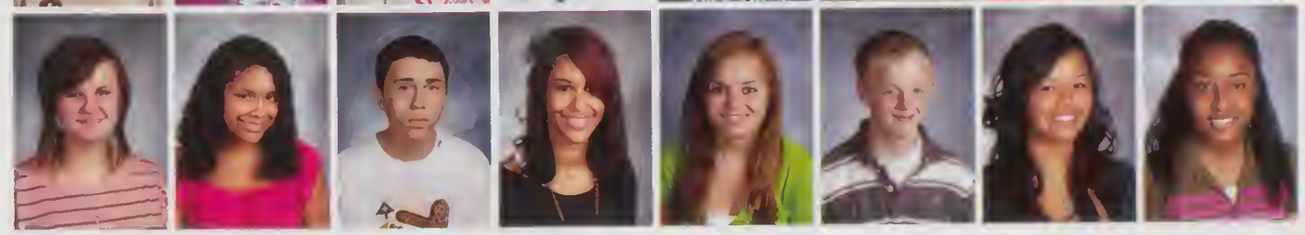
Braxton Carey
Brandon Carpenter
Michaela Carpenter
Andres Carrillo
Na'Jvia Caruthers
Angelina Castillo
Michael Castillo Jr
Candace Catran

Ralpheal Chambliss
Kayleigh Champion
Jakqwuan Chandler
Roderick Chapman Jr
Brionna Charles
Destiny Chavers
Darwind Chism
Meagan Clarkson

Kelci Coker
Brianna Cole
Myracle Coleman
Dezonn Coley
Antonio Collier Jr
Marissa Collins
Juan Contreras
Tierney Cook

Shamar Cooper
Tevan Cooper
Vincent Carralez
Deonna Cox
Nathaniel Cox
Vejer Cox
Elijah Coy
Angelica Crawford

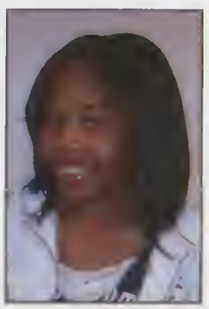
Cynequa Cross
Marguerite Culbreath
Brittany Cupid
Danielle Dailey
Anthany Davis
Davion Davis
Dijante Davis
Amber Dawning



Carly Degard
Danielle Deleon
Noah DeReal
Brionna Dempsey
Mary DeRouin
Jeremiah Deyarmin Jr
Claret Diaz
Ra'vyn Dickinson

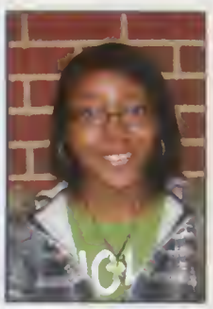
Freshman Q & A

Describe the transition from 8th grade to high school.



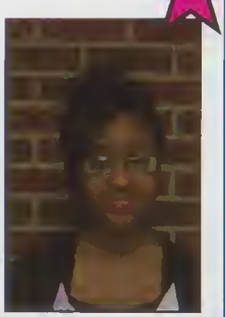
"To me, it wasn't that different because I'm used to being in a big school."

CANDACE HOWARD



"It was kind of difficult at first, but it got easier."

AYANA GRAY



"I realized that in high school you have to take responsibility for yourself."

BIANCA MURPHY

Destiny Dixon
Joleesa Doss
Todd Douglas Jr
Jordan Downs
Antonia Drake

Bryson Draper
Robert Drayton Jr
Yiqi Duan
Jenna Ducret
Jamal Duke

Jonathan Duke
Jamia Dunn
Matthew Dunn
Daniel Eldridge
Darren Elijah

Gabriella Escamilla
Christian Espino
Jeremy Falaschetti
Brandon Fassoth
Anna Feliciano

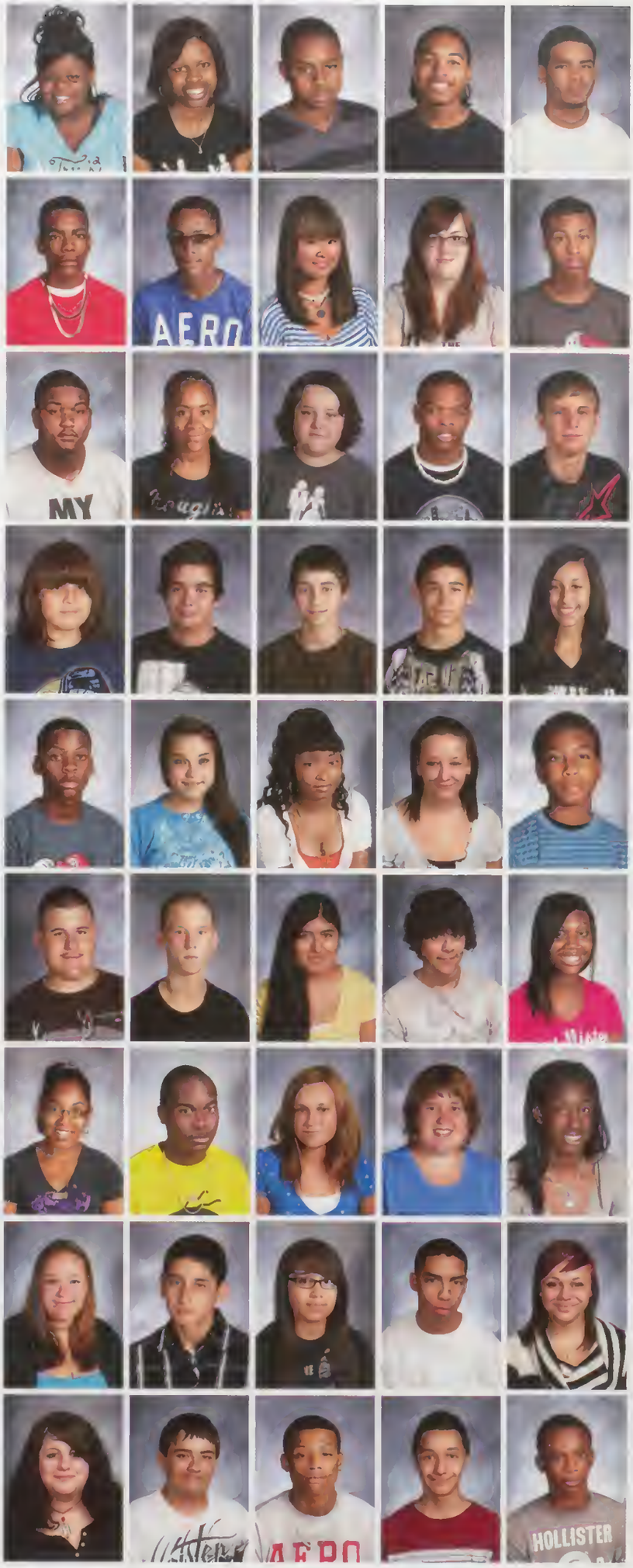
Garrett Ferrell
Jessica Ferrell
De'Ja Fields
Caitlin Fisher
Dwayne Fitzpatrick Jr

Brendan Fitzsimmons
Nathan Fles
Maria Flores-Ministro
Gregory Fontanez
Khalece Ford

Senna Ford
Andrew Foster II
Victoria Frey
Jennifer Gaines
Victoria Gaines

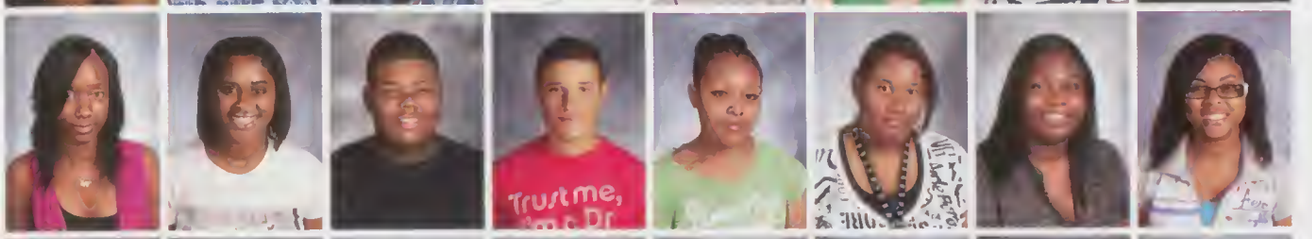
Rachel Galante
Alonza Garcia
Karina Garcia
Torrey Garcia
Brianna Garrity

Elicia Garnello
Billy Geminder
Justin George
Ashlin Gibson
Reese Gibson



Charity Ulkes
Erin Gilham
Austin Goldsmith
Kayla Grant
Ayana Gray
Essence Gray
Terrance Grayson
Anthony Green Jr

Sanara Gresham
Justin Griffin
Xenia Griffin
Daron Griffin Jr
Alexander Griffith
Emily Grant
Luis Gutierrez
Ray-Quan Hampton



Anika Hardaway
Tichina Hare
Denzel Harmon
Eeen Harmon
Mikayla Harmon
A'Janae Harris
Diamonique Harris
Ebony Harris

Kyara Harris
Margar Harris
Sabrina Harris
Alaya Harris
Axelis Harris-Medina
Xandria Harrison
Amy Harsma
Jayla Harvey

Sidney Hawkins
Raveen Heath
Ricky Heath
Cantrell Henderson
Carolina Henaersor
Adriana Hernandez
Aracelli Hernandez
Jeremy Herrod

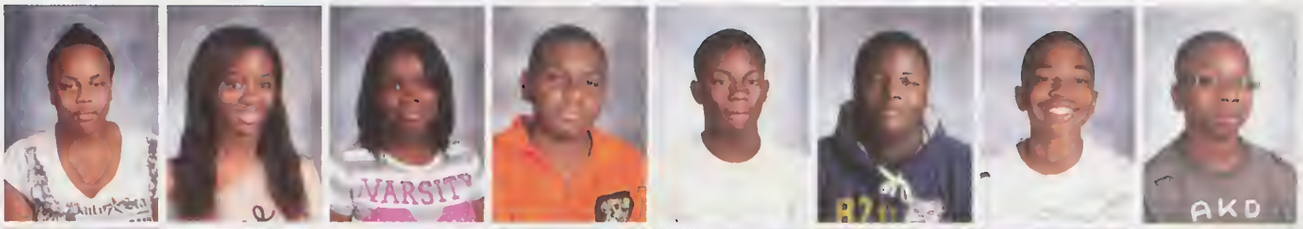
Kyle Heseltine
Monica Hicks
Alyssa Hill
Matthew Hill
Christina Hobbs
Dewriell Hobson
Alysha Holley
Jessica Holmes

Tvaney Hopkins
Jayonna Horton
Alexandra Houart
Candace Howara
mary Howard
Deon Hughes
Jayon Hunter
Trayon Hunter

Tank Hunter Jr
Brandon Hurson
Sean Hyche Jr
Bryceton Irvin
Benjamin Jackson
Joseph Jackson
Robert Jackson
Shontia Jackson

Terry Jackson
Eric Jackson Jr
Shauntielle James
Tajra James
Ivan Jara
Julian Jenkins
Roberto Jeronimo
Arriana Jimenez

Shaletra Johnson
Arianna Johnson
Ashantae Johnson
Daijon Johnson
Eric Johnson
Ja'Vion Johnson
Javyn Johnson
Justin Johnson



Michele Johnson
Michelle Johnson
Shabrella Johnson
Tyler Johnson
Michael Johnson II
Daniel Johnson Jr
Darian Jones
Jamiah Jones

Jeremiah Jones
Sacha Jones
Toriana Jones
Savannah Jovas
Juan Juarez
Jenna Jurczyk
Jagjot Kaur
Kaleb Keelen

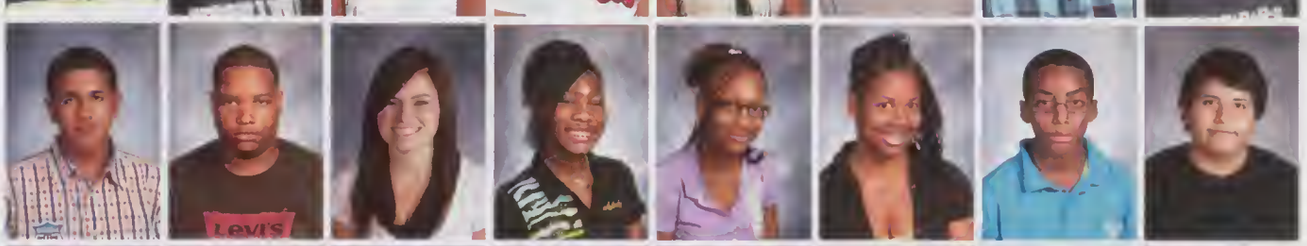
Samantha Keith
Evin Kennedy
Jordan Kerner
Jamie Kimbrough
Drew King
Jason King
Khandi King
Chelsea Klemoff

Matthew Knight
Rebecca Koeppl
Destiny Konieczny
Cassidy Koontz
Ethan La Belle
Malik Ladley
Tyler Laster
John Lawson

Julius Ledesma
Samantha Lee
Imani Lemon
Kevin Lenoir
Natavia Lenoir
Ashley Leon
Fernando Leon Jr
Morgan Lesch

David Lewis
Jamese Lewis
Jayla Lewis
Katherine Light
Meranda Lipson
Jeffrey Long
Donald Long Jr
Orlando Lopez

Ernesto Lopez Jr
Jamal Lott
Kersten Lucero
Shalana Lyles
Toriana Mabon
Shana Mabone
Aniyus Magee
Armando Maldonado



Ruben Maldonado
Stephanie Maldonado
Candace Martin
Devin Martin
Alana Martinez
Josue Martinez-Santa
Axel Mathis
Krystle Mathis

M'Kaylah Mc-..well
Dalton Maynard
Lindsey McCain
Alexis McCaine

Brandon McCallister
Liam McConnell-Langt
Brittany McDowell
Dvian McDowell

Ivan McDowell
Ashua McGee
Talaria McKinney
Larissa McKinney

Caddon McWilliams
KeYuana Membres
Sergio Mendoza
Andrew Merced

Ally Meu-
Allyssa Mihal
Kailyn Milem
Audie Mills

Alexis Miller
Temia Minfield
Alyssa Minogue
Ivan Minor

DeAndrea Mitchell
Brandon Mirzanin
Kwiame Moffett-Knight
Alesha Moody

Daryla Moore
Kenneth Moore
Nigel Moore
DeriNis Moran

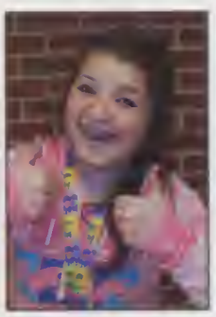
Aaron Morigi
Kenneth Morris
Farid Muhammad
Maryam Muhammad

Freshman Q & A

What is something people don't know about you?

"I box and play soccer."

JUAN JUAREZ



"I have superpowers."

MEAGAN CLARKSON

"I'm an artist."

NAPHTALIA RUTH

FRESHMEN

One Word Describe Yourself In One Word

"Unique"

MICHAEL CASTILLO

"Outgoing"

INDIA SIMPSON

"Different"

REESIE WOODS

"Athletic"

DANIELLE DAILEY

CLASS OF 2015

Romeo Munoz
Andy Murga
Bianca Murphy
Isis Nash

Angelica Navarro
Shante Neely
Steven Negrelli
Ryan Neligan

Chloe Nelson
Tommye Nelson
Alfredo Nino
Alexis Noble

Mariah Norwood
Andres Nunez
Kennedy Nunn
Kyle Nymeyer

Andrew Ooms
Angelica Oropeza
David Orzechowicz
Juan Padilla

Thoresse Lenea Parker
Hetkumar Patel
Justin Patton
Jeffery Payne Jr

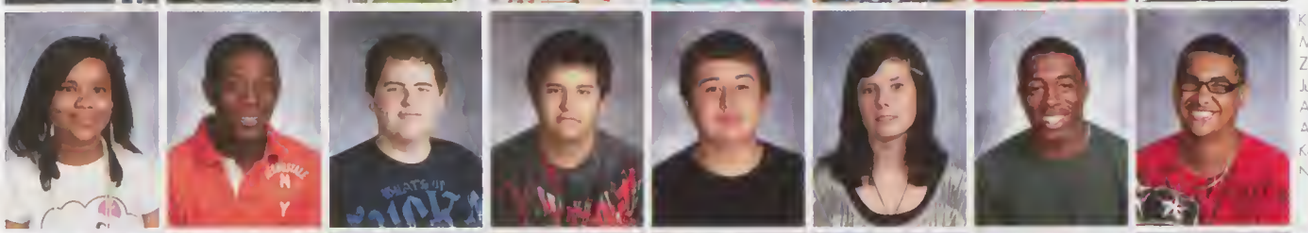
Israel Pearson
Larryssa Peoples
Fabian Perez
D'Aria Perkins

Jarus-Michael Perry
Bryauna Peterman
Asianna Peterson
Nicole Peterson

Ty'Ron Peterson
Da'eJa Pinkins
Montes Pirtle
Jacqueline Pollard

Nathaniel Porter
Sierra Porter
Malli Presley
Marissa Presley
Daniel Pyle
Brandon Quanstrom
Zakary Quarrell
Jacob Quinones

Geldardo Quintero Jr
Nicholas Racine
James Raddatz
Diego Ramirez
Brelin Ray
Crystal Recio
Christian Reddick
Christen Reed



Kianna Reed
Marquise Reed
Zachary Reed
Juan Reyes
Anthony Ricchio
Alexandra Rich
Kamau Richardson
Noah Richardson

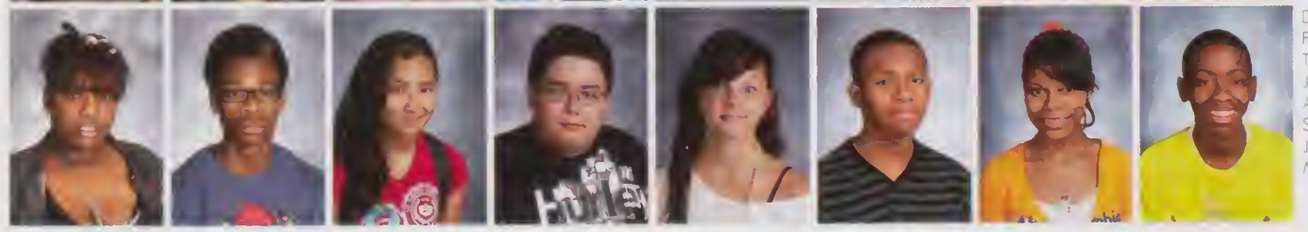
Lamar Riley
Karl Riley Jr
Amanda Rivera
Johnnie Rivera Jr
Marian Robertson
Day Shaun Robinson
Jonathan Robinson
Michael Robinson

Raina Robinson
Rhonda Robinson
Suritae Robinson
Briante Rodgers
Jamila Rodgers
Tara Rodgers
Christopher Rodriguez
David Rodriguez

Edgar Rodriguez
Joel Rosas
Kaylee Ross
Kerri Rouser
Robert Ruiz
Nachtalia Ruth
Brandy Rzepczynsk
Christopher Saez

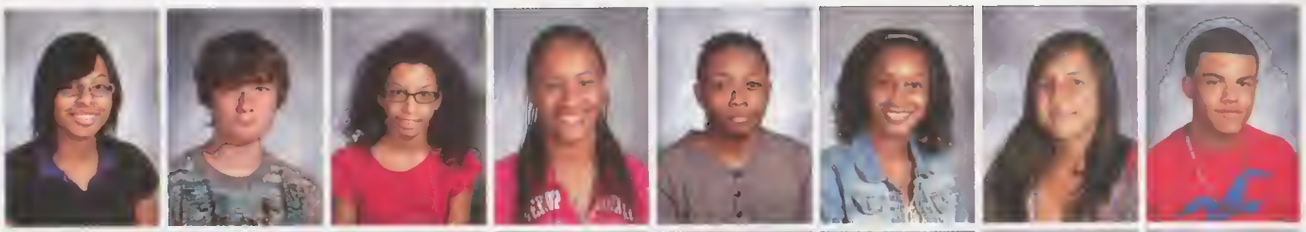
Brian Sales
Bradley Salka
Mam Samoa
Shana Sams
Treashan Sams
Arnold Sanchez
Humberta Sanchez
Joseph Sanchez

Khaila Sanchez
Moniel Sanders
Raquel Sansone
Victoria Sansone
Jacob Santacaterina
Andres Santiago
Briana Santiago
Alyssa Schultz



Daejah Scott
Pierre Scott
Temira Scott
Jesse Serrano
Angelina Serrata
Samuel Shadrick II
Jada Shannon
Montriel Shell

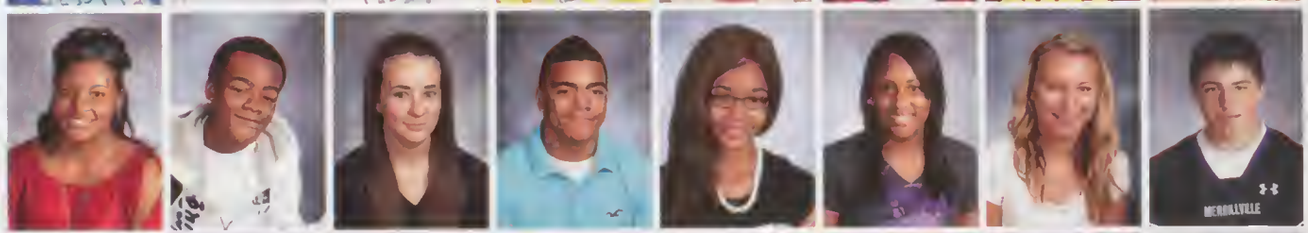
Victoria Shelton
Cory Shirk
Bonita Shoulder
Jazzmine Shuffard
Phillip Simmons
India Simpson
Chloe Skertic
Kendall Skinner



Morgan Skonieczny
Aaliyah Smith
Alize Smith
Brittany Smith
James Smith
Jamese Smith
Jana Smith
Quintavion Smith

Vallee Smith
Keanu Sato
Michael Sparks Jr
Anthony Spear
Jordan Stanley
Sean Staples
Christian Steele
Lamonte Steele

Taylor Steffey
Tyler Steffey
Kali Stevens
Robert Steveson II
Antania Stewart
Briah Stinson
Chloe Stone
Jonathan Streck



Frank Strug Jr
Benjamin Styx
Maurice Swain
Maika Sweeney
Jaz Talley
Miguel Tapia
Brandon Taylor
Brandon Taylor

Courtney Taylor
Jacaray Taylor
D'artagnan Taylor Jr
Casey Teverbaugh
Desmond Thomas
Victoria Thompson
Alexis Townson
Jubica Trenas

Che'Niece Trice
Samantha Triplett
Jonathan Tucker
Joseph Turley
Alexandria Turner
Anthony Turner
Marlon Turner II
Brittnay Valant

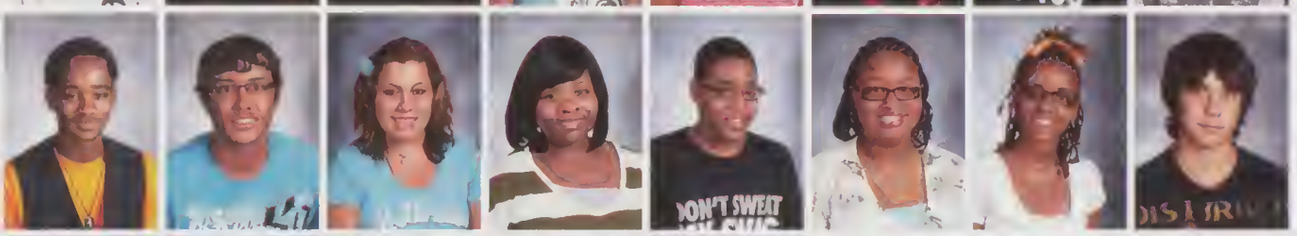
Cassandra Vargas
De'Janae Varnado
Sarah Varney
Sierra Vasquez-McGee
Quansha Vaughn
Eric Vazquez
Gregory Vega Jr
Brenda Velasco

Yadhira Velez
Elizabeth Vinson
Hope Wagonblast
Wynonna Wagonblast
Mia Wahdan
Shauntia Walton
Robert Ward
Everett Ware

Brittan. Washington
Tyreee Washington
Samuel Watkins
Matthew Weed
Kashay Welch
Janae West
Jazmine West
Tyler Westbrook

Kaliyah Williams
Arianna Williams
Ashley Williams
Jasmine Williams
Jermisa Williams
Mia Kai Williams
Rashaad Williams
Lawrence Williams Jr

Xayvion Williamson
Tut[illegible] Wilson
Malik Winbush
Cameron Wingate
Deliah Winters
Richard Witkowski
Darshawn Woodard
Darren Woods



Reese Woods
Willie Woods IV
Andria Woodworth
Tierra Wright
Keon Wright
Nadia Wright
Taia Wright
Steven Wunder

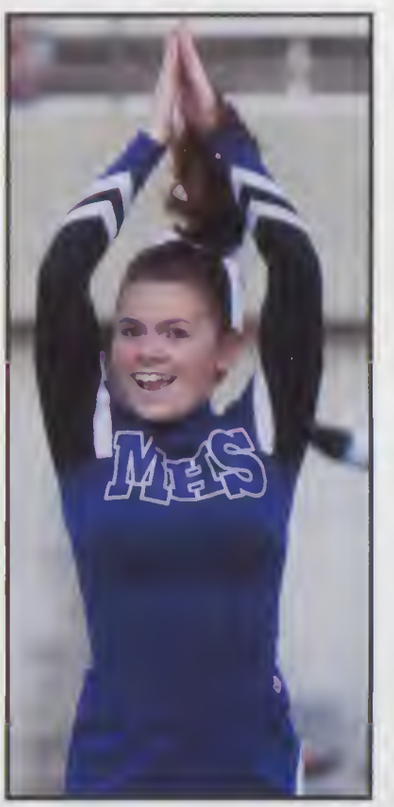
Vanessa Yanez
Joseph Young
Kierra Young
Simone Young
Nicholas Zubik

Camera shy freshmen

Kayla Akujabi
Diamand Anderson
Chabria Armstead
Lanta Ash Jr.
Ashley Bailey
Hayley Ball
Alyssa Barrett
Ariana Bedalla
Kendall Bell
Edward Bibbs II
Tiearra Buckingham
Joshua Burden
Tatiana Bynum
Omar Cardenas
Sabrina Carrall
Destiny Carter
Marcus Castra
Antainette Cax
Zachary Diaz
Kady Diehm
Martinque Dinkins
Tyler Dukleski
George Duncan IV
Megan Dziewicki
Keyan Edwards
Trinity Ferguson

John Ferrell IV
Jayce Fykes
Jamaal Harvey
Michael Hawkins Jr.
Amy Hunt
Parker Huttel
Isaiah Igartua
Lakiah Jackson
Hope Johnson
German Janes
Tyler Kelley
Kyle Kirkwood
Latricia Lacey
Eliejah Lapez
Fantajia Malane
Alexis Marquez
Jada McClendan
Sharania McFarland
Faith Miller
Tadd Mohammad-Salama
Kirk Myricks Jr.
Lucas Nera
Huldah Ohiani-Jegede
Isaiah Pearson II
Arianne Perkins
Tevin Phillips

Joseph Pullen
Paul Pullen
Dalares Radiceska
Alexia Rainey
Crystal Raygaza
Dennis Reed
Maryam Raberts
Jesse Sims Jr.
Darryl Smith Jr.
Jashua Stephens
Taylar Steversan
Christopher Stewart
Aleksandra Suleski
Maria Tapia Jr
Alyssa Tetzlaff
Kinicki Thompson
Michael Vandecar
Justin Velez
Darius Walker
Deondre Warren
Kenneth Washingtan
Tywann Wilkerson
Taylar Wilson
Sabrina Woodward
Teonte Wright
Maises Zamara

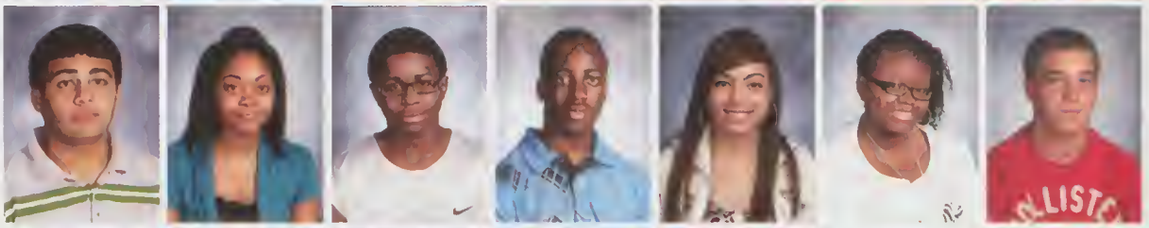


On the side lines at a fall football game freshman cheerleader Keristen Lucera raises her arms during the starting line up. Lucera has been cheering since kindergarten and plans to cheer the rest of her high school career. "The best thing about being a freshman on varsity is that I hopefully will be four years on varsity. Cheering helps me keep a positive attitude," Lucera said.

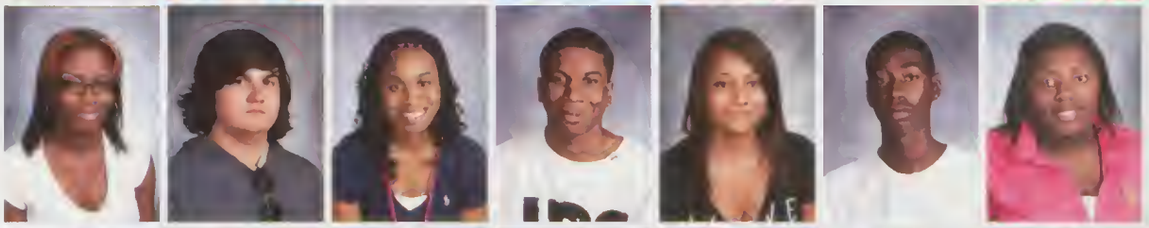
SOPHOMORES Class Of 2014

Niesha Aaron
Marquis Adams
Kelsey Ahlborn
Jimmy Aiken
Henry Akinbobuy
William Akins
Alexis Alexander

Hasan Ali
Kiorra Allen
Ontrell Allen
Isaiah Alleyne
Amaryllis Alvarez
Akeish Amiker
Jacob Anderson



Kierra Anderson
Michael Anderson
T'Aira Anderson
Robert Anderson
Elise Anguiano
Elisha Armsteaa
Rickiesha Armstrong



Willie Armstrong
Ricky Armstrong Jr
Sebastian Arreola
Melanie Atria
Megan Austin
Michael Bailey
Victor Baranda Jr

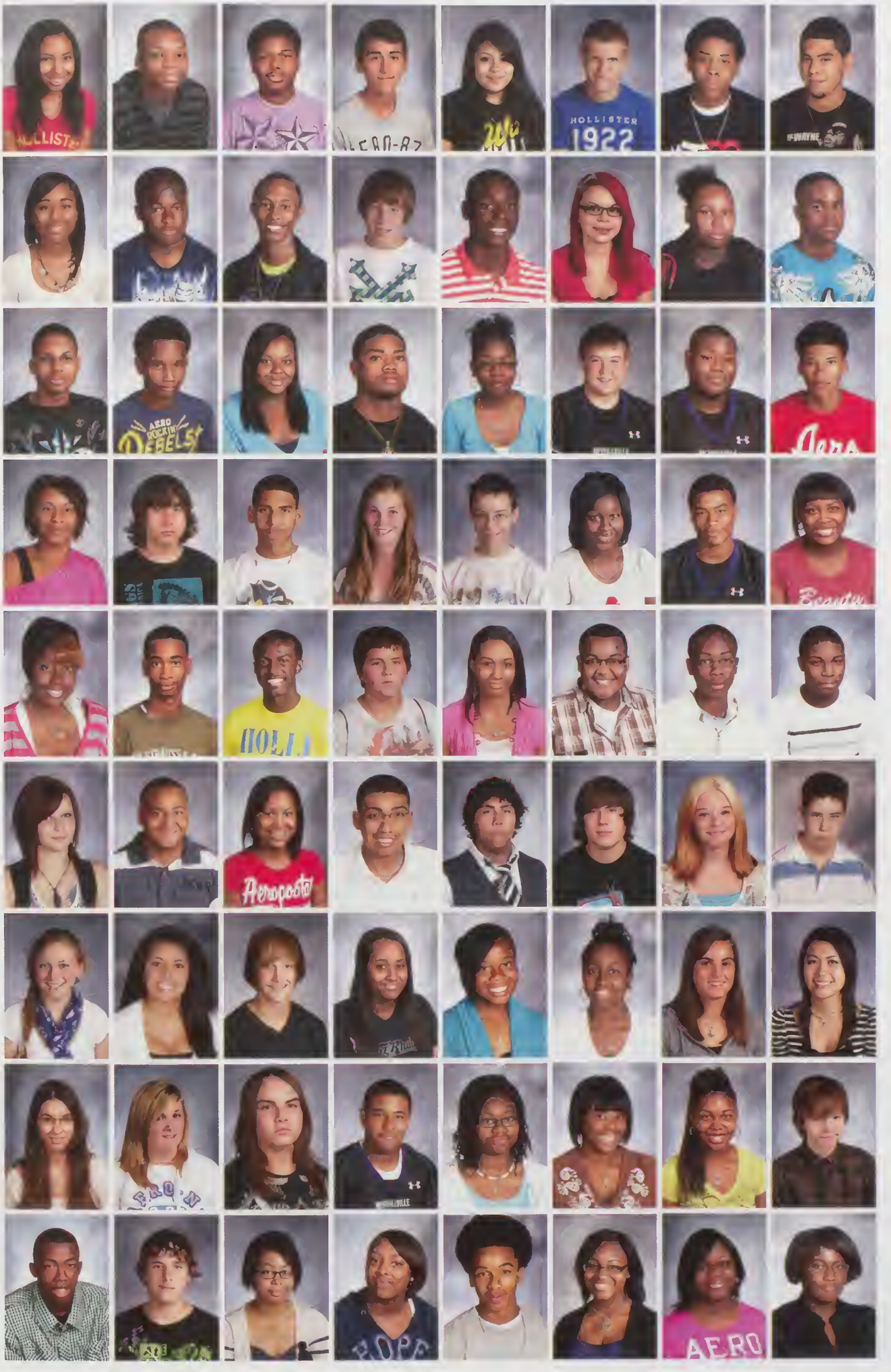
David Barefield
De'Ron Barefield
Nehemiah Barker
Joshua Barron
Branaon Bass
Marcus Bass
Charles Beach Jr

Tiera Bean
Erin Beecher
Alexander Begala
Nadia Bell
Darne Bell
Niles Bell
Aaron Beshears

Ja'Kwanna Biffle
Samuel Bladson
Morgan Bonick
Charles Bonner
Cameron Boone
Amira Boyd
Morgan Boyd

David Brady
Juanita Brandon
Joshua Brewer
Emmanuel Briseno
Jessica Broom
Shane Brousseau
Alexia Brown

Jalynn Brown
Kimber Brown
Tony Brown
Donjuan Brown II
Craig Burns Jr
Caitlinn Caddick
Britnye Cameron



Caitlyn Campbell
Edmond Campbell
Jonathan Camper
Gabrie Carbajal
Bianca Cardenas
Jacob Carey
Keith Carr Jr
David Carrera

Danbrielle Carter
Shareef Cauley
Adonis Chandler
Devin Charnago
Michaud Cherry
Ashley Christie
Deyhauna Clark
Larry Clark Jr

Denzel Cockrell
Darreon Cody
Taylor Cody
Devonte Coffee
Sharkayla Coffee
Triston Cogh
Jeffery Colby
Tajai Cole

Tashod Coleman
Kenneth Coleman Jr
Isaiah Colon
Maggie Connelly
Steven Coo
Charnise Cooper
Abdul-Raqib Cox
Aliza Crawford

Takyra Crayton
Xavier Crenshaw
Waymon Cruse
Dakota Cummins
Tiana Cuttino
Nikell Dabadee
Alexander Dailey
Dylan Danforth

Daisy Davis
Joshua Davis
Terra Davis
Angel DeLa Cruz
Joshua DeLeon
Brett Deline
Kaeleigh Denton
Bryce Deslaviers

Alexis Deter
Selena Diaz
Damion DiGangi
Faiza Dika
Shaquita Dillard
T'Niya Dix
Hannah Dixon
Nhu Doan

Alexandra Dobrea
Mary Doeing
Dennis Dombrowski
Malcolm Donley
Daniel Donson
Tyshay Doss
Audrianna Downs
Joshua Drapeau

Bakari Draper
Jordan Ducret
Nadia Duke
Willa Earwin
Elias Eaton
Diamond Eddie
Emerald Eddie
Brittany Edmond

Sophomore Q & A

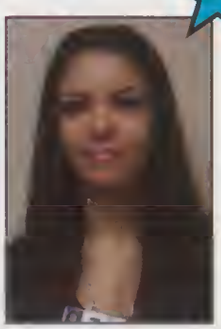
How does it feel having classes with upperclassmen?

"It's better because I feel more confident."

TIMOTHY HOWARD

"It's better because I get to meet more people and I'm not limited to just my class."

SHAWNECE WILLIAMS

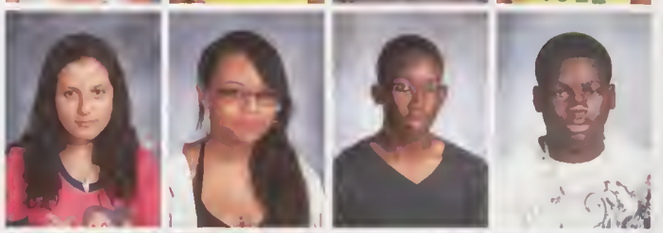


"It makes you feel more mature and it helps you in class because they understand more."

ALYSSA OTANO

Haliyann Erskine
Brittany Ervin
Raymond Escamilla IV
Ruby Esparza

Madeline Estrada
Aresa Evans
Colin Evans
Destiny Feliv



Billy Fields
Jeremy Fiakes
Alison Fletcher
Naori Fondren

Shawn Forbes
Glenn Ford
Kenneth Ford
Rayquane Forte

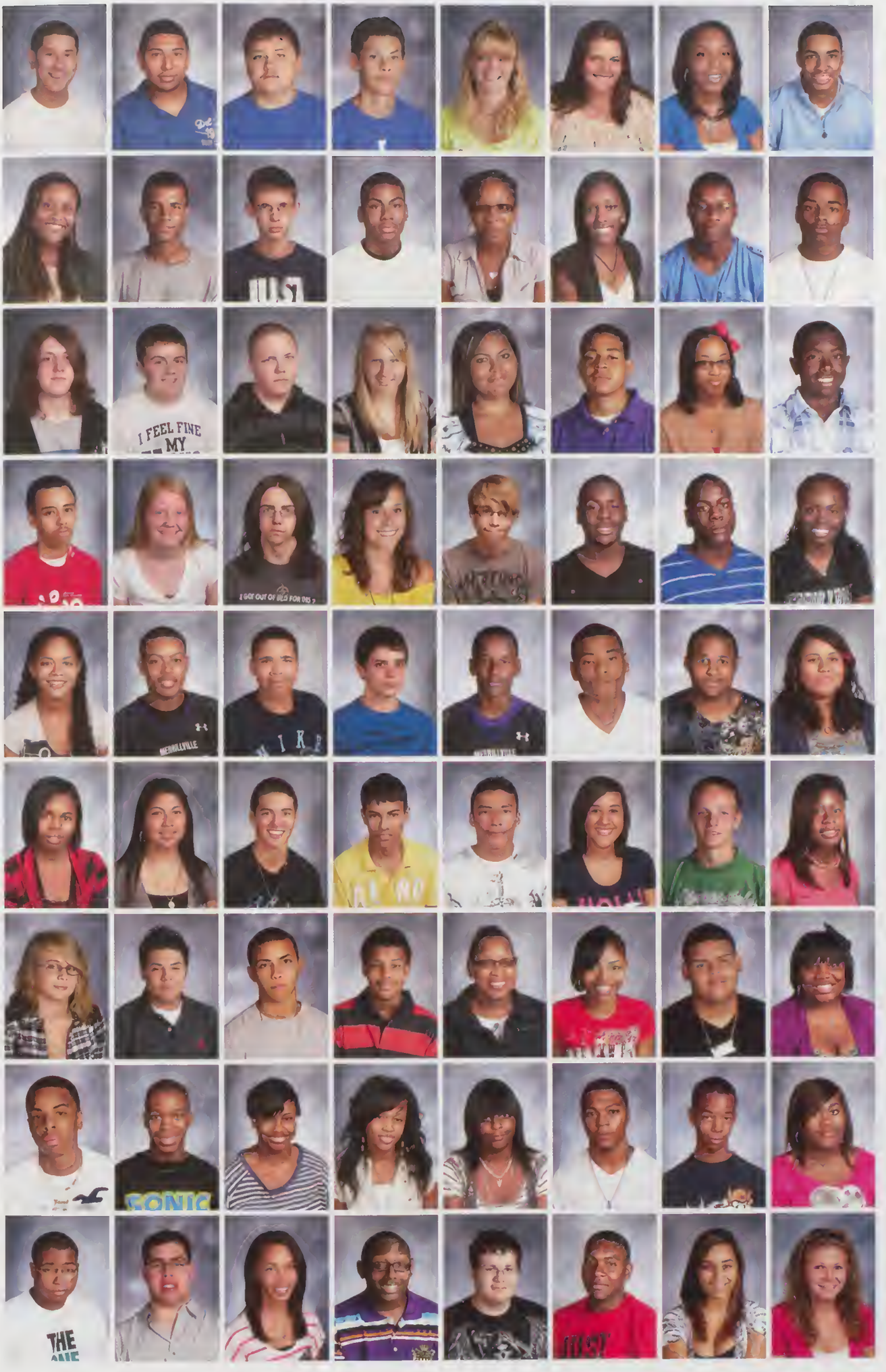
Isaiah Fountain
Briana Frazier
Aaron Fuller
Kiara Fuller

Tyrie Fuller
Jarrin Funches Jr
Harold Gage II
Marissa Gallardo

Tatianna Gaona
Celina Garcia
Jazmin Garcia
Isaac Garnello

Christian Garza
Michael Garza
Joseph Gawrysiak
Keon Gibson

Ronnie Giles Jr
Gakia Gillespie
Tommie Glasper II
Logan Glaver



Joaquin Gomez
Richard Gomez
Jacob Gonzalez
Jose Gonzalez
Kristina Goodman
Cassandra Govert
Brooke Grady
Kelvin Graham

Princess Grandberry
Billy Grant Jr
Tyler Gray
Henson Greaves Jr
Myka Green
Raelyn Greene
Devone Greer
Josiah Grey

Aiden Griggs
Andrew Gross
Edward Gryczewski
Katy Guzek
Katelyn Haddaway
Jimmy Hagan
Gloria Hall
Monte Hamlet

Jonathan Hammonds
Ashley Hansbury
Keith Harder
Rachel Harper
Philip Harper
Jacob Harris
Jacolby Harris
Larissa Harris

Myranda Harris
Tre Von Harris
Carey Harris Jr
Kyle Hartlerode
Nicholas Hayes
Coley Heath
David Henderson
Ana Hernandez

Giavanna Hernandez
Sara Hernandez
David Hertl Jr
Jose Hidalgo
Salvador Higareda Jr
Monica Highler
Conor Hill
Kambrielle Hills

Shelby Holaen
Antonio Holguin
Matthew Hollins
Joshua Holmes
Tonajah Hooks
Demetria Hope
Larry Hopkins
Sherelle Hopson

Dashaun Horde
Marquise Horton
Adrean Howard
Chloe Howard
Shantay Howard
mothy Howard
Kermit Howell
Amaretta Hudson

Branaen Hull
Benjamin Hulsey
Rache Humes
Ja ar Hutch
John rai V
Bryant Isabell
Mar ayla Isham
Amanda Jackson

Gabriel Jackson
Janda Jackson
Le'Darius Jackson
Nygel Jackson
Yazmeen James
Jaylyn Jarrett
Arlana Johnson
Briena Johnson

Delmar Johnson
Desaree Johnson
Efferem Johnson
Effricka Johnson
Tiffany Johnson
Wanya Johnson
Isaac Johnson Jr
Carl Jones

Enrique Jones
Isis Jones
Joshua Jones
Marcus Jones
Niesha Jones
Deon Jones Jr
Jason Jones Jr
Michael Joseph

Tiara Joseph
Tamera Julkes
Tyler Kaiser
Shawntriana Kelley
Brian Kelly
Demesha Kelly
Marshawna Kendrick
Monet Keys

Darry King
Janell King
Ronell King
Timothy King
Kyle Krause
DeAndrea' Lackey
Damonique Lambert
Tayvonne Landry

Shawnay Lardydell
Camille Lee
Deven Lee
Shakira Lenoir
Alaila Lewis
Jasmine Lilja
Michael Lipscomb
Christopher Lloyd

Eric Lockhart
Jemonte Love
Markese Luvert
Angelique Mackin
Donald Magee II
Shawn Manna
Keith Manuel Jr
Me'Shaun Manyfield

Adrianne Marquez
Pearea Marshall
Tameria Marshall
Darius Marteen
Christa Martin
Joel Martin
Martez Martin
Mercedez Martin

Michael Martin Jr
Stacy Martin-Ellison
Felecia Martinez
John Martinez
Julie Martinez
Briana Mason
Johnny Mathis Jr
Marquise Maxwell

Ronald Mayersky II
Elaiya Mayo
Collins Mbachu Jr
Donovan McCray

Haley McDaniel
Jasmin McGee
Fabian McGhee
Garland McGhee

Uretha McGinnis
Tina McGinnis
Justice McGowan
Demetrious McKeether

David McKinsey
Nia McMurray
Nathaniel McNary
Matthew Meacham

Jose Medina
Jennifer Meloy
Spencer Melvin
Chase Mihal

Ariana Miller
Victoria Miller
Demetri Miranda
Kathleen Mitchell

Michael Mitchel
Rebekah Mongold
Diante Montgomery
LeVante Montgomery

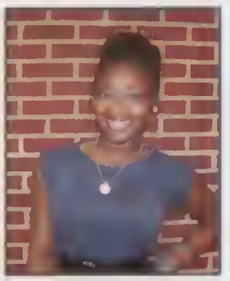
Lyric Morgan
Darnaid Morgan Jr
DeVania Morris
Cristopher Mryszuk

Deja Murphy
Howard Murray
Jasmin Navarro
Lauren Neal

Sophomore Q & A

What is something people do not know about you?

"I played baseball in East Chicago until I moved here."

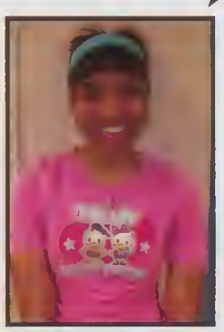


SHAWNAY LARDYDELL

"I like water boating and fishing."

JACOB ANDERSON

"I'm an amazing dancer."



BRITNEY PLATTS

SOPHOMORES

One Word

"Sweet"

TAYLOR WOODS

"Magical"

WILLIAM AKINS III

"Fierce"

RICKESHA ARMSTRONG

"Protective"

JOHNELL WEST

Describe yourself in one word

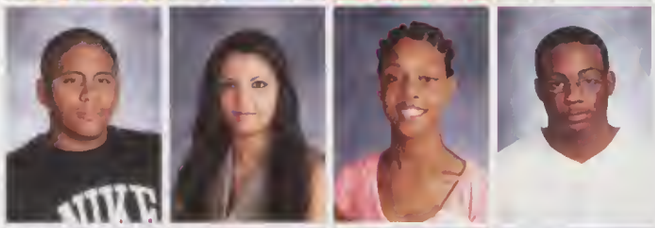
Ryan Neal
Sharday Neely
Richard Neely
ShaVonne Nelson

Alfredo Nevarez Jr
Anna Newell
Dontay Nichols
Robert Nielsen

Elizabeth Nino
Javone Norman
Alison Nowak
Ashley Nowak

Thomas Nueros
Brandon Oliver
Roy'l Oliver
Anthony Ortiz

David Osorio
Alyssa Otano
Tadja Outlar
Jvaughn Owens



Angelique Oyervides
Karlos Pacheco
David Parker
Jordin Parker

Kenneth Parkham Jr
Frederick Patterson Jr
Sean Patton
Charles Pena

Courtney Peterson
Lonnie Pitts
Malcolm Pitts
Britney Platts

Nathane Paiezoes
Jasmin Pollard
Precious Price
Tamisha Price

CLASS OF 2014

Matthew Proper
Kaelyn Purham
Amber Quinn
Sarai Ramirez
Christopher Ramsey Jr
Yvonya Randle
Jameelah Rasheed
Luke Ratley

Michael Reese
Whitney Reese
Khayla Reid
RaJaune Richards
Justin Richardson
Kamaria Richardson
Edward Riley
Kaylyn Riley

Robert Riley
Abria Roberson
Cortlan Robinson
Malik Robinson
Darnell Robinson Jr
Eric Robinson Jr
Bryana Rodriguez
Jerry Rogers

Jourdain Rogers
Analisa Rosa
Lynette Ruiz
Olivia Ruiz
Zoe Saavedra
Kayla Sadural
Jonathan Salazar
Nancy Salinas

Alexander Sampson
Aaron Sanders
Senobia Sanders
Kathryn Sarsfield
Thomas Scalora
Rachel Scallan
A'Leah Scott
Kiera Shackelford

Ke Shawn Shaffer
Conor Shea
Alya Shelton
Tyler Shipp
Emmanuel Shoulder
Alondra Shuford
Brandi Sims
Nicole Sims

Cree Smith
Crissy Smith
Devon Smith
Domonique Smith
Imani Smith
Jordan Smith
Jordyn Smith
Juwan Smith

Lauren Smith
Trayvion Smith
Valencia Smith
Joseph Smith II
Eric Smith Jr
Tray Smith Jr
Ryan Sota
Tar Spear

Michael Spicknall
Michael Spudic Jr
Tatiana Starks
Isabella Stevens
Kasey Stewart
Paris Stewart
Shauntaliane Stewart
Jacob Stocker

Ashley Holte
Darius Stone
Steven Stout
Rayce Stringer
Adam Tapper
Byron Taylor
Damien Taylor
Janelle Taylor

Jasmine Taylor
Robert Taylor
Davenious Teat
Alissa Terry
Tihyya Terry
Adrien Teverbaugh
Kamara Thomas
Krysta Thomas

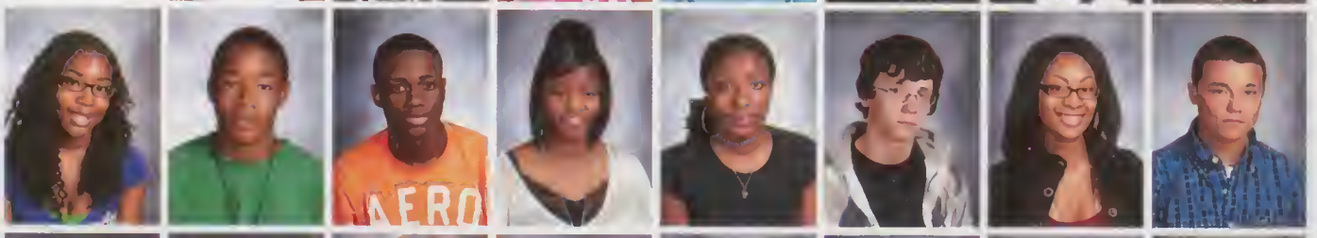
Kristin Thornton
Miah Thornton
Larry Tillman Jr
Ashley Timmons
Trevor Timmons
Susana Tirado
Riana Todd
Samuel Trent

AuShaura Trimble
Breyanna Turner
Cornelius Turner
Reginald Turner
Horace Turner
Kevin Ursery
Nicholas Vallone
Mariana Vornado

Alicia Vasquez
Horizon Vasquez-McGee
Meagan Viehman
Vanessa Villarreal
Hoang Vu
Alli Walberg
Kara Walker
Zak Walker

Kemeyon Word
Michallia Word
Ashton Washington
Jamelah Washington
Trey Vonn Washington
Lorenzo Watkins
Frank Webster
Makayla Webster

Anareana Wesley
Johnell West
Jeremiah Wheatley
Leona Wheeler
Destinee White
Ethan White
Naeemah White
Brian Whitter



Kennedy Wick
Kirsten Wiley
Megan Wilkerson
Brittany Williams
Chelsea Williams
Crishard Williams
Daveion Williams
Dorathy Williams

Lamontyanna Williams
Montana Williams
My-Nisha Williams
Shawnece Williams
Shyvon Williams
Terrence Williams
Javaun Willis
Asia Wilson

James Wilson
Samantha Wolcott
Jasmine Woods
Ronald Woods
Taylor Woods
Rebecca Wray
Tyre Wrenn
Monta Wright

Whitney Wright
James Wright
Eduardo Yanez Jr
Yasmin Yasin
Denzel Young
Patrice Young

Sophomores missing in action

Navise Alexander Jr.
Amaryllis Alvarez
Akeishi Amiker
Joseph Arias
Jashua Arias
Jasmine Bailey
James Baker
Jayden Ball
Devanté Barran
Penelope Barran
Gerald Bentley
Hadiya Bawen
Dantrell Brooks
Gentle Brooks
Taylare Bryant
Julia Cartagena Jr.
Anthony Champion
Kataria Chapman
Caylyn Clark
Ava Claytan
Mariah Cruz
Jacqueline DeLeon
Victor Diaz III
Vanity Dillan
Vanisha Douglas
Keyandra Edwards
Joel Escalante II
Anthony Forbes Jr.
Jasan Faster
Gwendalyn Freeman
Leslie Gardan
Marquise Henry
Patrick Hill
Trevan Hintan
Alec Holmes
Brenda Ibarra
Talya Ireland
Moses Johnson
Robert Kammer
Zachary Kedziara
Paul Kerr
Jessica Kauba
Samantha Kuykendall
Deja Lane-Fenner
Deonte Lars
Brianna Lee
Devanie Lapez
Chester Madin Jr
Paytan Miller
Tianna Miller
Johnny Mims Jr.
Arthur Moore IV
Lindsay Mata
William Munchenburg
Mariah Murray
William Nelson
Terrance Nichols
Thomas Novak Jr.
Jeremiah Ontiveras
Kevin Parker
Gabriel Perez III
Jase Perez Jr.
Alicia Pickens
Michael Purvis
Brittany Rainey
Christopher Reed
Briana Reina
Demarjae Rauser
Claudia Sabatino
Brianna Scott
Selena Seiber
Milton Sheets V
Darius Sims Jr.
Ahdezjia Smith
Sierra Spivey
Jessica Stephenson
Giara Stevenson
Vivi Tapia-Garcia
Rayvane Theralus
Zachary Tomb
Caitlyn Walker
Deonté Warren
Ashley White
Marquis Williams
Mitchell Williams Jr.
Eric Wilson Jr.
Mantel Winbush

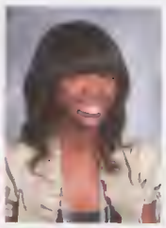
With Nom, Kids on the Block puppet from Vietnom, Sophomore Nodio Duke performs o show for the children who ottended the Kids' Cornivol spansored by Key Club during October. "His messoge is thot people come from vorious parts of the world ond that differences should be respected ond celebroted" Duke said.

"The best part of the Homecoming donce wos tolking with friends ond toking pictures" Sophomore Kyle Krouse soid. Joining him ot the donce wos Sophomore Whitney Reese. Reese cheered ot the Homecoming gome Friday night ond Krouse soid he watched the gome in the stonds.

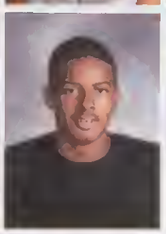
Juniors

Class of 2013

Luci Acosta
Alexandro Acosta Jr
Yolanda Addison
Breeana Adeniyi
Paula Akuminade
Ibria Ali
Arnisa Allen



Danny Allen
Jl Phan Allen
Taylor Allen
Edith Amitoelau
DeAndre Ammons
James Anderson
Earnest Anderson II

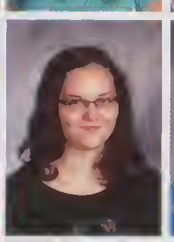


Yvon Anguiano
Kasie Antich
Amy Aponte
Tynn Applewhite
Morgan Archibald
Juan Arellano
Dayanna Arichavala

Zahra Arifee
Ashley Armstrong
Brooklyn Ashby
Hannah Bailey
Zacarria Bailey
Brandon Baldwin
Kaylia Bandy

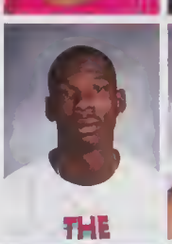
Rachel Baron
Stephanie Barnard
Sue Anna Barnslater
Francisca Barrera
Simone Barron
Darion Basemore
Vernell Bassett

Brianne Boylor
Meghan Beecher
Elias Benitez
Joshua Bey
Emma Bice
Bryce Billingsley
Lauren Bistrican

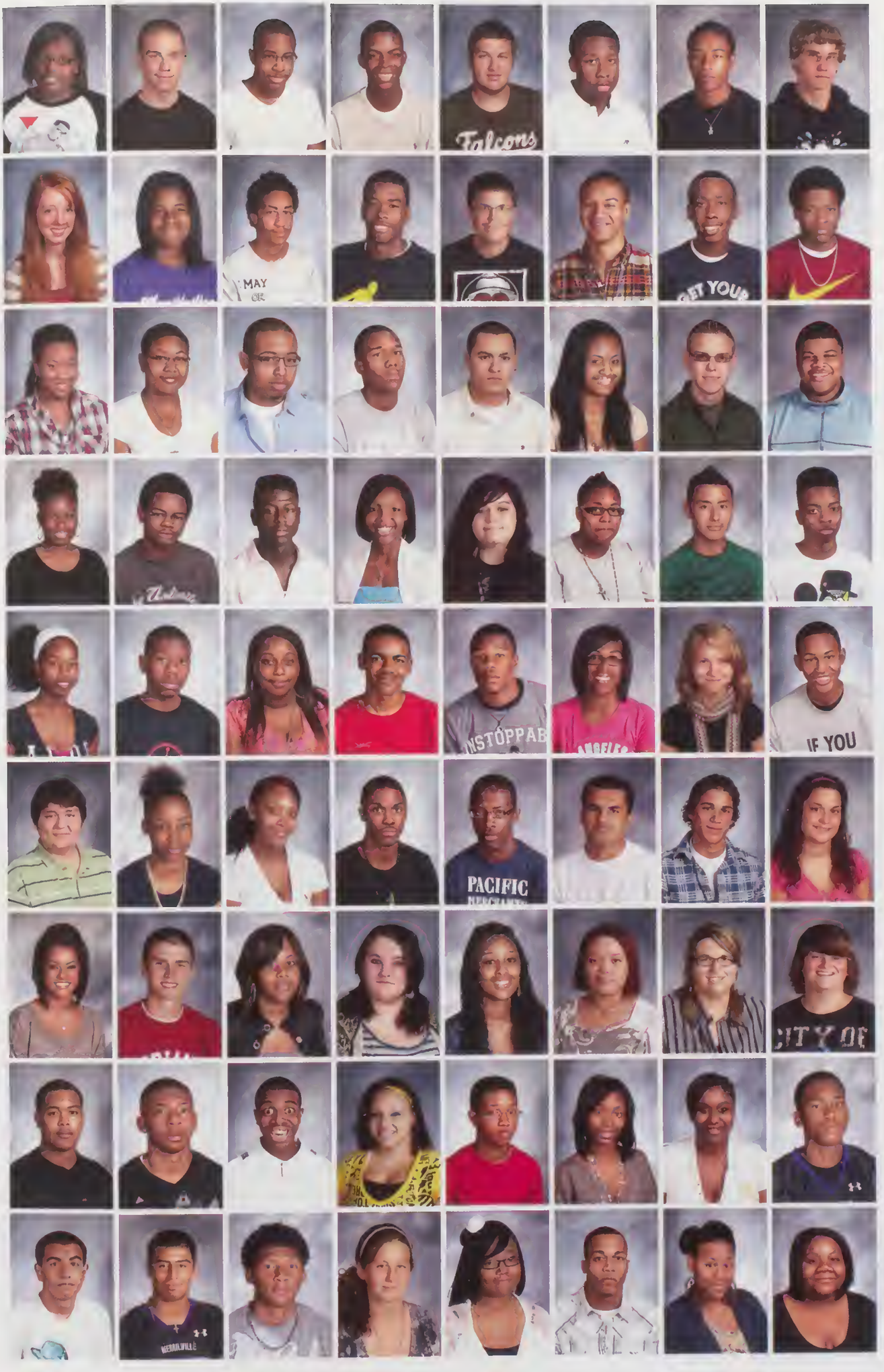


Brandy Blackmon
Eric Blackmon
Me'Cha Blue
Tahnea Bolden
Christina Bond
Tracey Boog
Chelsea Bowen

David Bowman
Briana Boyd
Brittney Brack
Joseph Brady
Bradley Brayfield
Francesca Bricker
Cheyenne Briner



Jintesha Briner
Joshua Bromberg
Rebecca Broom
Brianna Brown
D'Shae Brown
Jermey Brown
Paris Brown



[illegible] Brown
Christian Brunst
Taylor Bryant
Khalil Buchanan
Jordan Buhse
Justin Bullock
Tyrell Bullock
Randall Bultema Jr

Charis Burgstahler
Olivia Burnett
Reuben Burns
John Burns
Jacob Butler
Nicholas Buttrey
Justin Byrd
Kyron Byrd

Kabria Cage
Faith Call
Branden Campbell
Jesse Camper
Jose Carbajal
Brianna Cardona-Arroya
Cole Carr
Gabrie Carter

Jalissa Carter
Johnathan Carter
Tony Carter Jr
Aaliyah Castleberry
Alexandra Castro
Shanequa Cauley
Michael Chabes
Anthony Chamberlain

Amber Clay
Tremell Cobb
Arianna Cole
Sarris Coleman Jr
Dylan Collins
Jasmine Collins
Victoria Collins
Michael Collyear

Anthony Contreras
LaRhonda Cooke
Amanda Cooks
Lee Cooper
Travante Cooper
Valentina Carrolez
John Costakis
Melissa Costakis

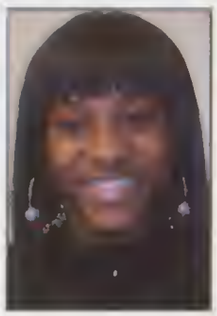
Danielle Cothier
Joseph Cowser
Briana Cox
Desiree Cox
Valencia Cox
Denisha Crawford
Mikaela Cristafaro
Stephen Cummins

Darius Dabadee
Terrance Dabdee Jr
James Daniels
Kaitianna Daniels
Eric Davis
Jaylyn Davis
Dominique Dearing
Oyinmiebi Deidigha

Nicholas Delgado
Eric Deluna
Jordan Diaz
Jelena Djurayevic
Tabitha Dolton
Tyler Dorsey
Eloya Doss
Michelle Douglass

Junior Q & A

How does it feel having only one year left of high school?



"It feels like the year is going by too fast."

HARMONI FLORENCE

"It feels great, but when I leave I'm going to miss all my friends."

STEPHEN JACKSON

"I feel sad because I feel like I haven't done all of the things I planned to do in high school."

TAYLOR GADDY

Jonah Ducret
Kyle Durham
Aaron Dye
Eugene Dykes

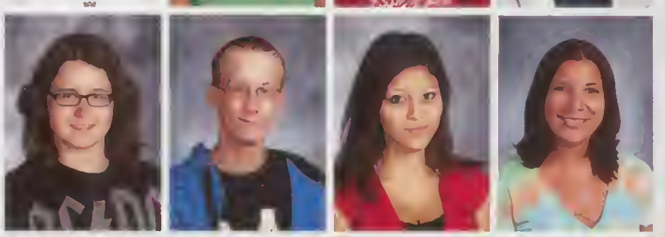
Jared Earwin
Tavia East
Dean Eitel
Nicholas Enghofer

Andrea Enriquez
Angelica Erskine
Kendall Ervin
Tierra Ervin

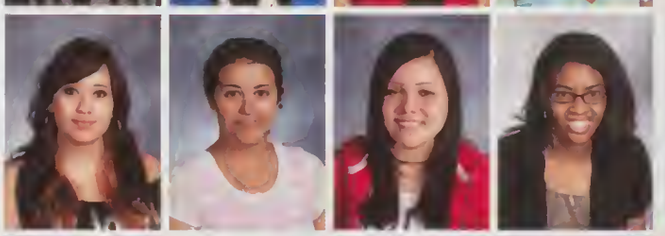
Amber Falaschetti
Adeyinka Fashawe
Casey Feyes
Jonathon Feliciano

Prince Felix
Summer Fields
Zachary Figueroa
Alan Fisher

Edwin Fitzsimmons
Zachary Fles
Ana Flores
Christa Flores



Crystal Flores
Jessica Flores
Sarah Flores
Gabriella Floyd



DeAndre Frazier
Taylor Gaddy
Dijon Gant
Adam Garcia

Alan Garcia
Christian Garza
Eric Gatewood
Taylor Gibson

Cody Gilbert
Nathaniel Gilham
Breia Givens
Leonard Golden
Antonio Gomez
Diamond Goods
Zachary Goralczyk
Amber Granderson

Ashanti Gray
Ashley Gray
Saayande Green
Taija Green
Raymond Greenleaf
DeMarshe Greer
Anthony Griffin
Cedric Griffin

Dezmond Griffin
Jonna Griggs
Allison Gronli
Zachary Grass
Kaitlynn Grubbs
Jasmine Gruchma
Jorge Gutierrez
Janenna Guy

Prescott Ha
Tom Hagan
Devon Haraaway
Lauren Harding
Arrica Harper
Emma Harper
Jajuan Harris
Jaylen Harris

Jordan Harris
Morgan Harris
Shannon Harris
Tia Harris
Keith Harris Jr
Kenneth Harsma
Kierstyn Hartlerode
Courtney Harvey

Justin Harvey
Anthony Harwood
Ciara Hayden
Kiara Hayden
Joshua Haynes
Taylor Haynes
Diamesha Hemphi
Diamond Hendrix

Sapphyre Hendrix
Daniel Hernandez
Emilia Hernandez
Samantha Hernandez
Breon Hi
Daniele Hi-Pierson
Donell Hinton
Jaylan Hollifield

Christopher Hollingsworth
De Jshon Hollins
Jasmine Holmes
Erica Homeier
Brittani Hood
D'Cartia Hoskins
Ricky Houston Jr
Meshaun Howard

Latrell Hudson
Torry Hudson
Zhanique Hudson
Rhone Hughey
Alisha Ireland
Kaitlyn Ison
Jessica Jackson
Robyn Jackson

Shadya Jackson
Stephen Jackson
Austin Jamerson
Khai James
Quinton Jamison
Daniel Jankulaski
Miranda Januszewski
Alejandra Jara

Quemon Jefferson
Brian Jenkins Jr
Carlos Jenkins Jr
Alante Johnson
Carey Johnson
Danielle Johnson
Donisha Johnson
Jasmine Ann Johnson

Jasmine Guy Johnson
Jasmine Lanae Johnson
Jordan Johnson
Jovanna Johnson
Juan Johnson
Khiara Johnson
Niatar Johnson
Robert Johnston

Johnathon Joiner
Marcellus Joiner
Carlyn Jones
Charmayne Jones
Denise Jones
Jada Jones
Kourtney Jones
Quintin Jones

Joe Jones Jr
Markel Jordan
Brian Karasoff
Adera Kelly
Danielle Kemp
Milton Kiel
Gevari Kimble
Aaliyah King

Ja'Shawn King
Anthony King Jr
Delaun Kirk
Markus Kluga
Jamie Krawczykawski
Marti Kulakowski
Miguel Lagunas
Lauren Lamb

Anthony Lancaster
Kria Lance
Hannah Lane
Carlysle Larson
Paige Lauerman
Tierra Lay
Shelby Lee
Trevar Leonhardt

Joshua Leschinsky
Mariah Lewis
Nykia Lewis
Trenae Lewis
James Liles
Violet Lipscomb
Weiliang Liu
Devonte Lloyd

Otavi Locke
Jasalynn Lockett
Cleveland Lomax
Mikaila Lomax
Elizabeth Long
Shenia Loper
Alexander Lopez
Nicolas Lopez

Sarah Love
Madi Love
McArthur Lyles
Breyon Magee

Melina Mahome
Bianca Maldonado
Kathryn Manis
Marquise Manning

Whitney Manuel
Tanisha Martin
Alejandra Martinez
Jose Martinez

Ricardo Martinez Jr
Andrea Maths
Christopher McClain
Christina McDowell

Thomas McFarland
Steven McGee
Devin McGrone
Alexis McMillan

Marcus McReynolds
Brandi McSwain
Lesiee McSwain
Kiara Mears

James Medwetz
Kylie Mesher
Patricia Meza-DeLaTorre
Komaria Millard

Depreecia Mims
Jessica Mireles
Dante Miller
Jaquan Mobley

Julie Mojica
Marissa Mongold
Daniyan Morris
Naim Muhammad

Junior Q & A

What are you doing this year to prepare for your senior year?

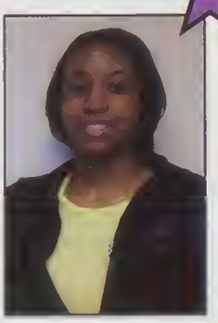
"I'm taking AP and required classes so I can take easier classes my senior year."

ZHANIQUE HUDSON

"I'm taking the SATs & ACTs more than once and also making sure that I make good grades."

QUINTIN JONES

"I'm going to try to stay focused on what it is I need to do."



BRIANNA OUTLAR

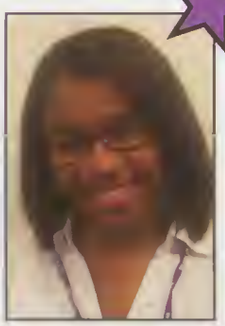
Juniors

One Word

"Energetic"

Erick Acosta

"Intellectual"

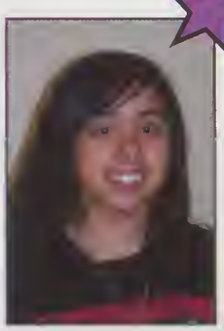


Selena Robertson

"Muscular"

Carlos Taylor

"Outgoing"



Guadalupe Navarro

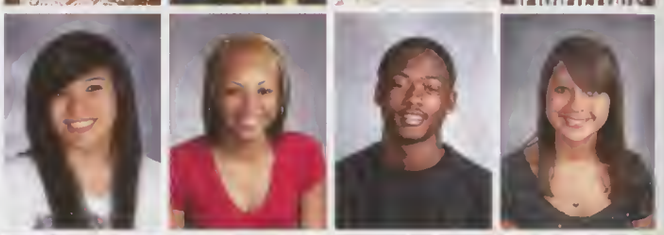
Describe Yourself In One Word

Brittany Mulligan
Alex Murga
Kelly Nangin
Guadalupe Navarro

Julian Neal
Ryan Negrete
Jovan Nelson
Taylor Nevarez

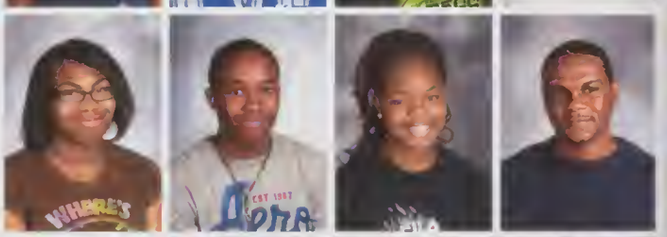
Amanda Nevitt
Paige Nichols
Elizabeth Nieves
Michael Norwood

Janay Ologue
Ginea Oliver
Jamal Oliver
Natalia Ooms



Breanna Outlar
Jamard Owens Jr
George Papamihalakis
Jacob Pardus

Sheridan Parker
Joshua Parker-Clark
Darian Patton
Deanthony Patton

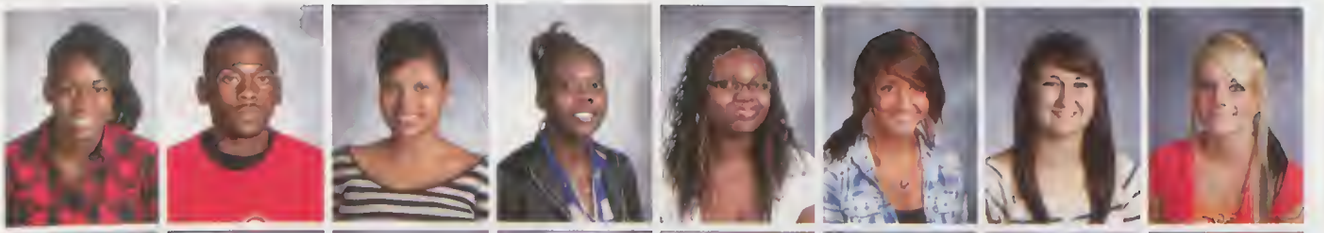


Shershom Patton
Rebecca Paul
Christian Pearson
Maryssa Pearson

Mackenzie Pearson
Salena Pena
Angelica Peppers
Alejandra Perez

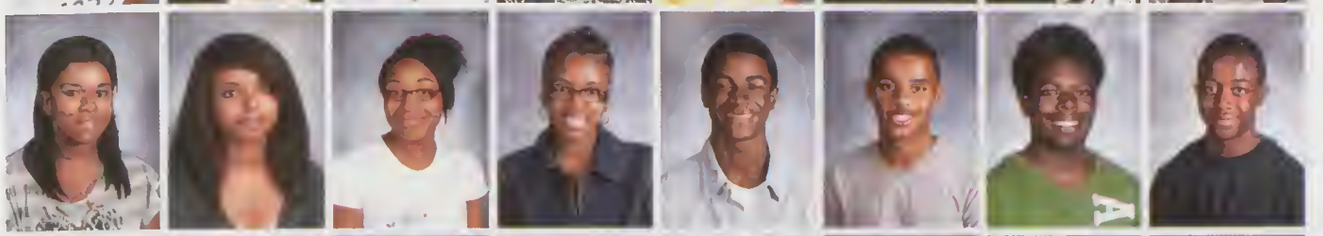
Luis Perez
William Perry
Tyler Person
Aerieyle Peterson

Class of 2013



[illegible] Peterson
Jerrell Peterson
Tierney Peterson
Ashley Phillips
Jordan Phillips
Kara Phillips
Taylor Pierce
Tayler Piet

Andres Pittman
Dakota Pitts
Xavier Pitts
Raymond Plunt
Precyous Poirier
Jordan Poe
Kendra Polk
Dante Pollard



Simone Ports
Alexis Powell
Ariel Powell
Veresha Powell
Jelan Pruitt
Dayshon Rainey
Michael Ramey Jr
Jamel-Abdul Rasheed

Jacob Raspopovich
Jordan Reaves
Jocelyn Recio
Khari Reed
Michael Reed
Steven Reed
Jnique Reed
Jhani Reid

Marcela Reyes
Kenyatta Richards
Lacey Richards
Allayah Richardson
Marshay Richmond
Regan Rios
Amber Ritchie
Cristian Rivera

Louis Robb
Jordan Robertson
Selena Robertson
Briana Robinson
Dynonta Robinson
Endiah Robinson
Jarrett Robinson
Jasmine Robinson

Tatyanna Robinson
Emily Rocha
Sarah Rochetort
Nathan Rodriguez
Eugene Rogers
Alexandria Romanow
Jenna Rose
Julie Ross

Lauren Ruffin
Salvador Ruiz
Ankobia Ruth
Keith Sadurol
Roman Salas
Avery Sameshima
Stephanie Samuels
Alejandra Sanchez

Kaelin Sanchez
Luisalfonso Sanchez
Sydney Sanchez
Allan Sandefur
D'Anthony Sanders Sims
Chalita Santana
Breanna Saxinger
Tyler Scheve

Ashley Schiller
James Schilling
Bernard Scott III
Kevia Semmes

Kevin Semmes Jr
Helen Serrato
Darie Sewell
Krishna Shah

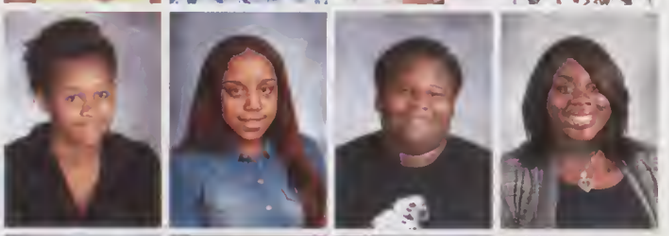
Ashanti Sharpe
Imani Shelby
Timothy Shelton
Timothy Shelton Jr

Adam Sherwinski
Michael Simpson
Eric Slade Jr
Adonis Smith

Amber Smith
Chardaray Smith
Derick Smith
Isaiah Smith

Ta'Sierra Smith
Lakisha Smith
Saleah Smith
Shanae Smith

Taneeyah Smith
Taquel'Na Smith
William Smith
Dayshana Smith-Washington



Brandon Snow
Matthew Sobczak
Samantha Sorbello
Aaron Sparkman

Steven Spencer Jr
Rashad Standfield
Jalynn Starks
Takeira Starks

Junior Q & A

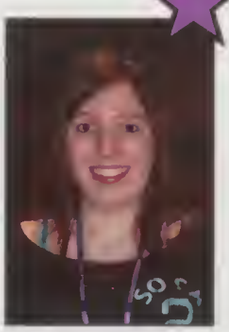
What is something people don't know about you?

"I used to be in band and I played the basson."

ZORAN TALLEY

"I used to play with toys until I was 13."

ISAIAH WILSON



"I'm actually outgoing."

KAYLA TRUEBLOOD

Chryshana Steele
Leanna Steverson
Chardanay Stewart
Cody Stewart
Dale Stewart
Charles Stokes Pyatt
Amber Sturdivant
Jacob Styx

Christopher Sumichrast
Alexander Swierc
Jacob Swierc
Zaran Talley
Ashelia Taylor
Carlos Taylor
Devin Taylor
Jenyah Taylor

Marissa Taylor
Don Taylor Jr
David Teamer
Daren Teets
Bruce Thomas
Darreon Thomas
Jeremiah Thomas
Tashata Thomas

Asha Thompson
Antoinette Thurmond
Shannon Thurson
Raven Tibbs
Lauren Tillman
Shyora Tolbert
Joseph Toma
Jeffery Travis

Kayla Trueblood
Domonic Tucker
Jordan Turley
Kennara Turner
Kentaye Turnipseed
Kayla Tyson
Kathryne Van Nortwick
Diana Vargas

Jessica Vasquez
Devonte Vaughn
Treyon Vaul
Tiara Veasy
Andres Vega
Miranda Vega
Deanna Venzke
David Venzke Jr

Avianna Villarreal
Hannah Villarreal
Deshay Vinson
Megan Vinson
Andre Walker
Chamere Walker
Darrell Walls
Allena Walton

Bianca Ward
Kendal Warfield
Matthew Warren
Kyle Washington
Britton Watson
Valerie Watson
Jasmine Watts
Jorrett Weathersby

Dennis Weber II
Anton West Jr
Devin Westbrooks
Errol White Jr
Kevin Wilkerson
Aliyah Williams
Brendan Williams
Briana Williams

Juniors

One Word

Describe Yourself In One Word

"Amazing"

Aalinah Castleberr

"Original"

Xavier Pitts

"Zany"

Kourtney Jones

"Comical"

Sairois Coleman

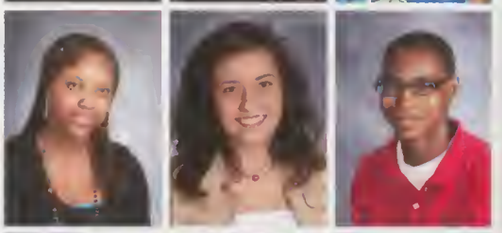
Class of 2013

Daquan Williams
India Williams
India Williams

Jacqulyn Williams
Justice Williams
awren Williams

Trevon William
Gregory Williams Jr
Gabrielle Williford

Breyanna Wilson
Brooke Wilson
Dion Wilson



Isaiah Wilson
Keri Wilson
Branton Wingate

Tyruana Winters
Javanna Witherspoon
Dionna Witherspoon

Joseph Witkowski
Alexandra Woodberry
Kevin Woodfork

Sterling Woods
Karley Woodson
Kelli Wright

Racine Wynn
Isaiha Yearwood
Destiny Yoder

Juniors waiting for the big picture

Tyteanna Abernathy
Maryom Adisa
Leonar Bedalla
Angel Garcia Berrias
Breanna Blaton
Alexander Bougher
Kesi Bowen
Isis Briner
Shianne Burden
Mariah Compbell
DeAndre Cannon
Quionne Davis
Darian Dubois-Stinnett
Darius Dukes
Clement Ervin
Skyler Fisher
Kwanisha Freeman
Jomes Gorcia
Ashley Glenn
William Harding
Marcus Harris
Leeyah Harvey
Maciel Haynes
Ki'Aire Hill
Kevin Hinton
Clorence Hasea
Demonte Johnson
Karl Jahnson
Jacquline Kennedy
Kyel Keys
John Knight
Armanda Leal
Travis Lee
Mariah Malone
Royal Marshall
Tracie Mortin
Caraline Mattull
Sierra McKinzie
Kejuan Membres
Yalanda Meza
Kelvin Miles Jr.
Alexis Miller
Paschal Miller Jr.
Jalen Minor
Nichalas Omon
Spencer Pattersan
Zachary Phillips
Micah Reynolds
Jasalyn Rivera
James Raberts
Dominique Robinson
Alyssa Radriguez
Marquise Rogers
Maxlin Ralland
Antanique Rooks
Karen Sanchez
J'Esha Santana
Pavla Shyrakav
Larissa Simpson
Alysso Smith
Marquise Spencer
Victar Stephens Jr
Tyree Stewart
Quinten Talar
Maria Valladares
Mathew VonVleet
Destiny Vara
Dianne Washington
Clarence Watson
Bryan White
Raland Williams IV
Jerrean Williamson
Lesley Winston
Wesley Winstan
Ashley Witt
Kathleen Zuniga

At the fall Homecoming donce Juniors Zaran Talley and Danielle Coteiller pose for their picture. "My night was amazing" Talley said "After Homecoming we went to Red Lobster and overall, it was a great night" Talley said.

"I just pulled out random stuff in my closet" Junior Brianne Baylor said. Baylor and fellow juniar classmates dressed down for Wacky Tacky Day during Spirit Week. "I think we should have more weeks like Spirit Week so people can get out of their element" Baylor said.

Faculty & Staff

Jane Akens
Thery Albers
Robert Albers
Janet Anderson
Martha Anguiano
Rosa Angulo
Joe Atria

Jamie Banashak
Michelle Barker
Amber Baron
Amy Beckham
Janie Bedwell
Robert Bedwell
Gwendolyn Benton

Brad Best
Kathryn Bihlman
Jeremy Bilka
Wade Boise
Harry Bosamp
Theda Bostic Jr
Janelle Bowen

Daryl Bowie
Sarah Boyle
John Bradford
Alan Branda
Elise Brennen
Sharlyne Buchanan
Susan Buse

Kaye Busgstahler
Melissa Byerly
Kristin Campbell
Carlita Echols
Prezonia Carroll
Shana Chelich
Farida Contractor

Kim Corman
Hannah Coronado
Lorri Cavacu
Willemetta Crawford
Aaron Crawn
Bruce Curme
Dawn Czuba

Benjamin Daniel
Mark Danielson
Gilic Dejuh
Grace Dewald
Christine Dixon
Barb Dlouhy
Pam Dortch

Nancy Draper
Jeffrey Eaton
Patricia Eckert
Josefina Eliscupides
Colin Elliott
Ann Ellis
Stephen Elser

Donovan Estridge
Jeffrey Fairbairn
Mark Fairbairn
Robert Fernando
Tim Finnerty
Erin Flores
Brigitte Floyd

Julie Gregen
Susan Gaines
Dragica Gajic
Matthew Garner
William Garner
Juana Garza
Gregory Geimer
Akuyobi Gerald

Lauteenia Gibson
Beth Gillespie
Charles Gleason
Amy Govert
Linda Hall
Heidi Hammond
Teresa Harness
Marianne Harrison

Josh Harvath
Christina Haverty
Kim Hayes
Susan Hayes
Kiro Healy
Brian Hebert
Jamarr Henderson
Claiborne Hezekiah

Denise Hickey
Dave Hinkel
Kenneth Hixon
Anthony Hofer
Meghan Hogan
Katelyn Holsclow
Car Hooper
David Hossler

Jason Hostetler
Sean Hudson
Richard Hurey
Sara Hurey
Joseph Hussey
Elisha Israe
Cynthia Jacox
Timothy James

Darcie Johnston
James Johnston
Kathy Jones
Betty Jordan
Nicki Jusko
Jason Kendero
Nicole Kendrick
Sarah Kennedy

Elizabeth Kenyon
Dorothy Ketsko
Sean Kinsey
Lena Kiser
Debra Klippel
Andjelija Knezevic
Michael Knecke
Nada Kolar

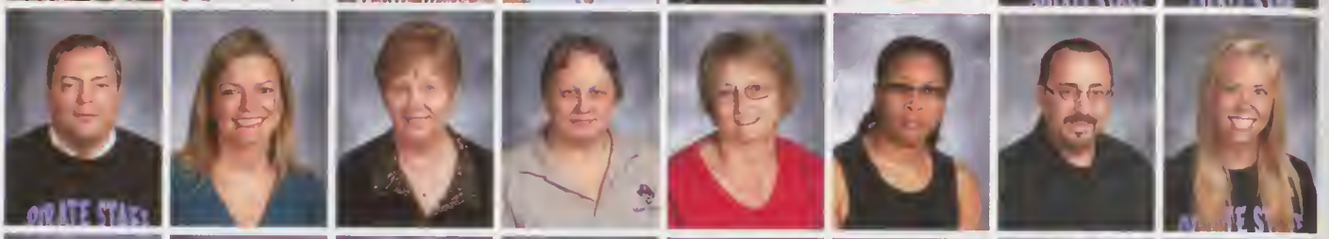
Jennifer Kozub
Themelina Kritikos
Sarah Krowka
Michael Krutz
Danny Lackey
Jennifer Leek
Sanaro Leon
Connie Lewis

Elma Lockett
Antonya Lopez
Luis Lopez
Rae Lopez
Tricia Lukawski
Anthony Lux
Bob Mackovyak
Kristin Maglish

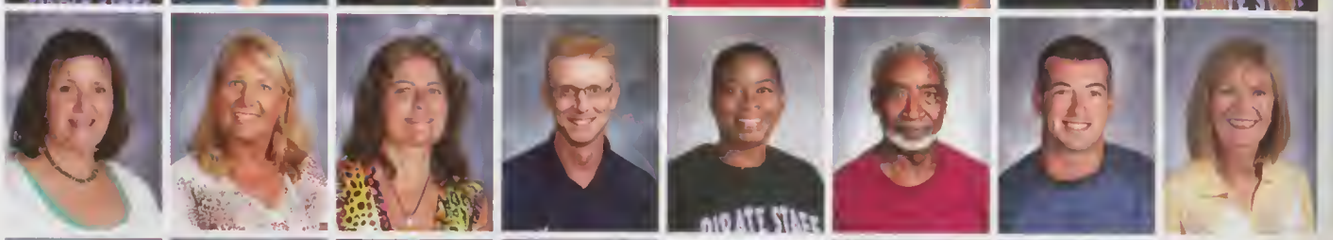
David Maldonado
Veronica Maldonado
Diane Mandon
Shyamiah Martin-Robinson
Rachelle Massacavollo
Deborah Mcbride
Mary McVade
Sean Meagher

Mary Jo Melder
Elaine Mendez
Lee Meyer
Nisa Milosavljevich
Vesna Miric
Frances Mitrevski
Allen Mizimakoski
Noura Mohamed

Joseph Monahan
Debra Monix
Helen Moravski
Debbie Morgan
Sally Morgan
LaFonda Morris
Dan Moslander
Kristina Mueller



Mary Neylon
Gail Nicolini
Bonnie Niksich
Andrew Niksich
Kawana Noland
Jerome O'Neal
Joe O'Connell
Deborah Onika-Brazys

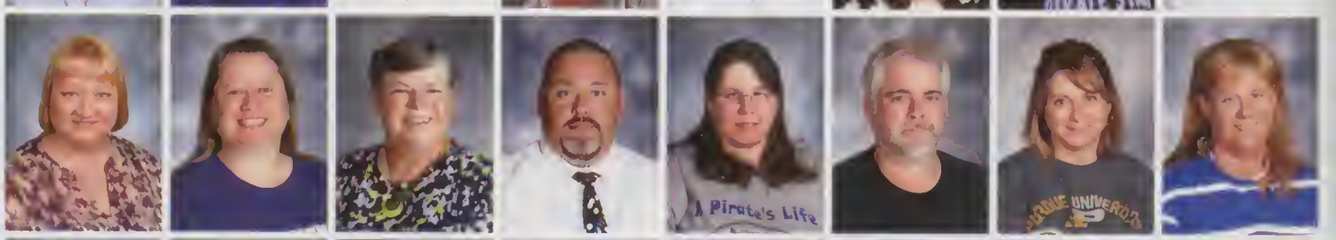


Martha Ortiz
Daphne Pantazis
Rick Parker
Stacy Parkhurst
Penny Parmley
Brian Past
Vicki Paulnitz
Kristi Pawlus

Nick Petralia
Maryetta Petras
Shelley Phelps
Deanne Pierce
Dee Pitts
Renee Powell
Steven Prather
Terry Pratt

Teresa Procter
Kyle Prow
Rose Pulliam
Janis Qualizza
Guy Ramey
Shelley Ray
Karen Reder
Kari Regan

Melinda Reinhart
Leilani Reiser
Judy Riba
Christopher Richardson
Pamela Roberts
Mark Robinson
Patricia Robison
Kathleen Rock



Donna Rodriguez
Brenda Rodriguez
Sharon Row
Brenda Sanders
Sherri Scartazzi
Mark Schellinger
Gary Schlinger
Sandra Scholtens

Daniel Jchaon
Pamela Schuetz
Thomas Scolaro
Monica Sekuloska
Charles Seligman
Melissa Sickinger
James Simon
Allison Skertic

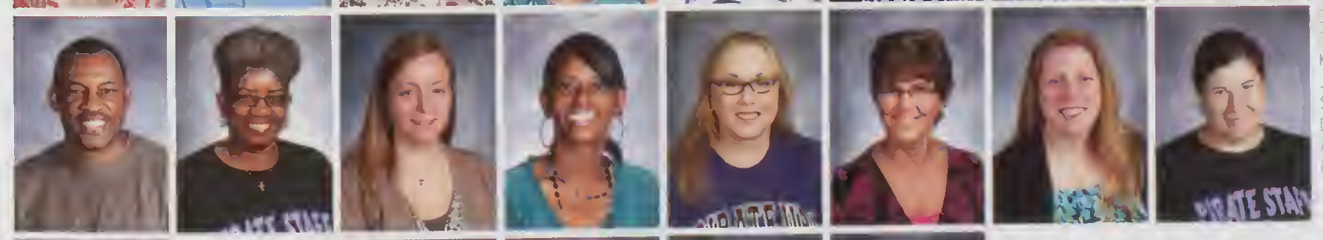
Lisa Smith
Patricia Smith
Jason Sonnenberg
Rachel Sonnenberg
Mary Sperling
Meredith Sperling
Irene Spiro
Carolyn Sponza

Jawnell Spriggs
Samantha St. Aubin
Dean Stadt
Debra Staffeld
Jake Stafford
Margaret Stallings
Sara Stallings
James Stamper

Charles Stanford
Jean Stanford
Luke Stanley
Anita Steele
Zoran Stefanovic
Evelyn Steiner
Lora Sterkey
Cvetana Stojceska

Al Stoner
Sherrie Stupic
Ruthie Sumbry
Melissa Szczerba
Marnita Taylor
Tracy Taylor
David Teeter
Marilyn Then

Pamala Tolbert
Paul Unterfranz
Cheryl Ursery
Melissa Valsi
Joy Varela
Judy Vassallo
Mary Vernia
Carol Van Behren



Darrell Washington
Daretha Wheeler
Kerry Wiersbe
Jermece Williamson
Sally Williamson
Debra Wilson
Michelle Wilson
Genevieve Wirtz

Katie Wiser-Knize
Evelyn Wofford
Daniel Wrasman
Esmeralda Zamora
Brian Zdych
Christina Zokvic

Carlos Aaron

Lore'al Avery

April Bailey

Charles Baker

Roslyn Baker

Peter Bertram

Kourtney Berry

Marie Bizet

Lauren Blackwell

Douglas Boender

Bruce Brown Jr

Brit Bromfield

Michael Calvert

Lisette Cabrera

Emmanuel Carrillo

Jean Pierre Cardenas

Mauro Chirino

Christian Chubbs

Symone Clark

Darrine Cleveland

Jamé Cleveland

Dawn Coker

Tyler Coleman

Colin Cook

Lauren Cook

Latrell John Cooper

Leesha Cooper

Mallori Cooper

Jamie Cozad

Andrew Curtis

Kasey Davis

Ryan Deerfield

Conrad Dezwaky

William Dowd

Paul Carey

Lauren Cantello

Michael Carpenter

LaQuana Carpenter

Tanner Carter

Keonna Coffey

Jon Cole

Kara Cole

Jessica Cole

Jeremy Collins

Shantehia Collins

Jacqueline Corn

Paris Courtney

DeVaughn Cox

Dylan Crane

Brandon Culver

Adriana Cunha

John Dates Jr.

Christopher Davis

Dean Davis

Dorian Davis

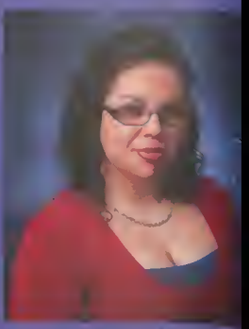
Rebecca DeCausemaker

JaVae Diaz

Brianna Forrest

Kayla Greene

Devin Hickle



Alexandria Hunt

William Isabell

Brinesha Jackson

Ebony Jackson

Robin Jakich

Frank Jefferson

Cashmere Jones

Jasmin Jones

Jazmin Jones

Michael Jones

Tyler Kepchar

Jasmine Kim

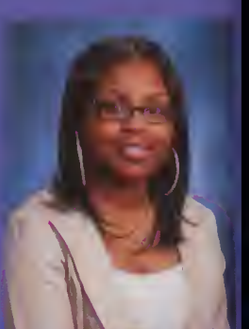
Morgan Lamb

Nicollette Lambert

Sara Lee

Jacob Larson

Carley Lengherd



Gina Le

Tileesa Holmes

Ashlan Howard

Logan Hubbard

Christopher Hymes

Daniel Humes

Dan'el Jimenez

Domynick Johnson

Freedom Johnson

Kiara Johnson

Sir-James Jonier, III

Brittany Jones

Lauren Kiser

Monika Knight

Jared Knox

Katherine Kolbert

Alma Kukavica

Kayla Lee

Ed'Tara Lee

Tiffany Lee

Jordyn Lewis

Malcolm Lindsay

Darrel Lipp

Anthony Luckett

Jacob Madera

Jesse Mallard

Jesse Marin

Erica Martinez-Lopez

Cynthia Lopez

Nicol McClinton

De'Arnesha McDaniel

Charles McGee

Kevin Meadows

Kathleen Mendoza

Jocelyn Mercado

Camisha Mitchell

Rodney Mitchell Jr.

Rashmel Morgan

Brad Morris

Erin Mosley

Diana Mosley

Kenneth Nelson

Kandace Nicholson

Michael Nickson

Amanda Nooger

Erica Norman

Robert Nowell

Bradchrey Palm

Pradnya Parvati

Robert Price

Mia Pauko

Lekisha Pearson

Joseph Pinto

Jordan Polk

Andrew Porter

Ashley Powell

Aundie Powell

Eboni Pulham

Crystal Quintero

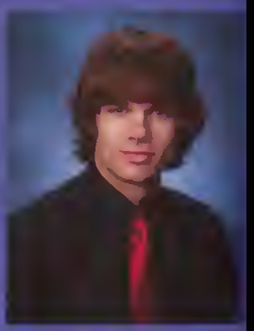
Lawrence Riley

Joshua Riley

Kenneth Riley Jr.

Saul Rivera

Chizz Roberts



Zachary Roberts

Alyssa Ross

Brooklyn Russell

Luqmann Ruth

Raven Saavedra

Nikko Sadural

Lexus Sice

Rachel Paul

Darryl Peppers

Dan'l Perkins

Rena' Petty

Dani' Ticker

Caleb Pirtle

Shikeia Randolph

D'Andre Reed

Jessica Reed

Jermaul Reed

Brianna Reyes

Michael Rhoades

Cameron Robinson

Lo'real Robinson

Rasheeda Robinson

TaChia Robinson

David Rodriguez

Kirkall Rollins

Brittney Sales

Caleb Sanchez

Myriam Sanchez

Rudolph Sanchez IV

Zachary Sandefur

Stormie Schilling

Mesiah Stewart

Stevie Storm

Diana Sutherland

LaShonna Taylor

Tesandra Taylor

Michael Thompson

Joshua Thornton

Dee Tidwell

Keyshia Tolson

Alexis Traylor

Cornell Tucker III

Joshua Van Buskirk

Darius Walker

Briana Walker

Chidemi Walker

Kenneth Walker

Marcus Walton

Jasmine Washington

Kayla W[illegible]ington

[illegible]

[illegible] Weatherspoon

Ashley Weaver

[illegible] Wells

[illegible] Whi[illegible]

Ashley Wielgorski

Allyrian Williams

Ashley Williams

Boris Williams

Bre'anna Williams

Danielle Winburn

Shermika Wi[illegible]

Ashley Wirkowski

Brandi Wolak

Beatriz de Aquiar

Jonathan Yanez

Keith Zocker

Christian Williams

Dasere Williams

Dominique Williams

Dominique Willis

Louis Williams III

Alex Wilson

Kourtney Woods

Taylor Wyndt

Taylor Wyndt

Jessica Yost

Brandon Young

L'Shonte Young

Alexis Zoumenou

Out of Sight

Dominic Alderson
Larry Alderson
Shakir Anderson

Davina Anthony
Thomas Anthony

Martin Arriaga
April Ashe

Jose Avalos
Shaiquesha Axel
Rico Ayala
Chardonnay Balkcom

Tailyr Barker

Zachary Barnack
Myles Barnes IV

Shakira Baskin
Davisha Bates
Arturo Bedolla
Kenneth Best II
Jucila Best

Gabriel Britton
Aisha Lynn Brown

Ayana Butler

Iyana Butler

Wilfred Campbell
Mellisa Carbajal
Nakia Clark

Sierra Collier

Rashawn Conwell
Indyia Cooke
Marcus Copper-Longoria
Dyamond Cooper

Michael Cotto
Tyran Crawford
Breawna Crowder
Destiny Dalton
Donovan Danforth
Jamie Davis
Sterling Day
Sherron Dennie
Michael DeVany
Daniel Diaz
Davonte Dillard
Octavia Dillon- Wilson
Anthony Disco

Shawn Dwyer
Leslie Easterling

Alexis Edwards
Najee Evans
John Farmer
Connor Fisher
Annissa Fitzpatrick
Antonio Foley
Noah Foster

Anthone Frederick
Robert Gabric Jr.
Eliseo Gamino

Antonio Garcia
John Garreffa
Shan Tii Naa Riinii Gaston

Anye Gibson
Tiarra Glenn
Jose Gonzalez

Elbryn Goode

Samantha Gordon
Harsh Goyal

Earl Grady
Kenyah Grant

LaTrice Greenwood
Bennett Hackett
Sean Hall
Nate' Hardin

Clifton Harmon III
Mychil Harris

Latonya Harrison

Kevin Hedrick
Isabel Hernandez

Loreal Hill

Jaron Holmes

Marqnis Hudson

Marchon Hunter
Charizma Jackson

Derryck Jackson
Johnathan Jackson
Corey Jacobs

Jacob Jara
Alexus Jenkins
Donielle Johnson

Johnathan Johnson
Jordan Johnson

Marvil Johnson
Paul Johnson
Tatyana Johnson
Terrance Johnson
Troy Johnson
Edward Jones
Jacob Jones
Jacquelyn Jones

Phashawnty Joseph
Diamond Keller
Trey Kelly

Adam Keri
Ty'Shawn Kidd
Whitney Knisley
Justin Koenemann

Nathan Koenemann
Joseph Lee

SENIORS

Jasmine Liggins
Valitta Longstreet
Peter Lopez
Maurisha Lord

Jelani Louis
Nahkayla Loveless

Levi Lungaro

Sarah MacDonald
Mia Mardis
Byanca Marquez

Daniel Martinez Jr.
Rodrick May
Antonio McClay
Brandon McCotry
Christopher McCoy

Jasmine McCoy

Brandon McDonald
Cesar Mercado Jr.
Tiyesha Millender
Christopher Monghan
Devon Moore
Carlton Murrell III
Brandon Neal

Graciela Ortiz

Selena Otano

Luis Padilla

Seneca Patrick
Carlos Payne
Moises Perez
Jamel Peterson

Donovan Phillips
Anthony Pitts Jr.

Brittney Powell

Jorge Luis Quintero Avila
Jordan Ramos
Airius Reed

Albert Reed

Andrea Reed

Devon Reed

Ashley Reynolds
Jamie Roberts
Miesha Robinson
Braiyan Rodriguez

Jonathan Ross
Donte' Royster
Frank Ruiz
Tatiana Ruiz

Yaritza Saenz

Docarri Savage

Vontia Shorter
Deborah Shoulder

Jalen Sievers
Averyl Sims

Jabria Sistrunk
Amber Smith
Chaunice Smith

Danielle Smith
Sylvester Smith III
Quanzell Snowden
Jarvis Starks

Nigel Stewart

India Taylor

Charee'a Teat
Brianna Thompson
Diamond Toney
Mercedes Turner

Trent Turner

Jasmine Uggins

Miguel Vargas
Jonathan Velasquez

Joshua Walker

Brittany Ware
Dana Warren

Dantrell Washington
Jaelah Washington

KiaJuana Washington
Antonio Watkins

Michael Whelan

Lenzie Wilkins
Vera Wilkins

Ryan Williams
Brandon Wright

Talisha Wright

BEYOND THE TESTS

To help Sophamore Devonio Morris Senior Tyler Kepchar guides her through the math problem. "Algebro I was o challenging closs for people who didn't understond or weren't good at math," Kepchor soid. Kepchar was good in math, so other classmates went to him for help.

After preparing the food and setting up the buffet table in the Holiday Foods closs, Senior Cashmere Jones prepares his plate. "It's fun to learn new things ond eat together," Justin Richardson said. "I was ready to eat," Jones added. They both agreed that the best part of the class is taking part in making and of course eating the food.

A three-yeor veteran of Mr. Dave Teeter's Graphic Arts closses Senior Edgar Guadarramo prints tee shirts for Merrillville Intermediote School's Math Team. Guadarammo has token both the beginning graphic arts closs and the productian class. The closses print about 10,000 shirts a year. In oddition to screen printing, Graphic Arts classes offer students the appartunity to work with lotest technology in digitol printing, embroidery and offset printing machinery.

AP CLASSES

TAKING A STEP FORWARD

Some students in Merrillville High School are challenging themselves by trying to earn college credits in Advance Placement classes. The classes include Literature and Composition, Biology, Chemistry, Calculus and History.

"Students do not have to have a certain grade point average to get into the class, but it is highly recommended that they receive a B or higher in both Algebra and Chemistry," AP Chemistry teacher Mr. Luis Lopez said.

In most classes, teachers have a certain syllabus from the school that they must follow, but the College Board must approve the AP syllabus prepared by each teacher.

"I like being able to make up what I want to teach the class because I can make classes more interesting," AP Literature and Composition teacher Mrs. Erin Flores said.

At the end of the school year, students take the AP exams, which can help them earn a college credit.

"The exam is taken in May, and all kids in the country who take AP courses take the test on the same day. If a student fails the exam, he or she cannot re-take it, but it won't affect the overall class grade," AP Economics teacher Mr. Chris Richardson said.

Teachers say the AP classes are more advanced and challenging than regular classes, but students who enroll in the classes take a big step to prepare for college.

Working on the AP Chemistry lab, Senior Ashley Witkowski tries not to spill anything while her teacher Mr. Luis Lopez, watches over her. "We cover a lot of material in a short amount of time," Witkowski said.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT:

Lending a hand to Senior Simone Graham and Junior Briana Williams, Junior Ankabia Ruth participates in an electrapharesis lab. "The hardest part about being in an Advance Placement class is the reading and comprehension and the things we discuss," Ruth said. She likes AP classes because they give her a challenge. "I am also enrolled in the AP literature class," Ruth added.

In a lab in Advanced Placement Biology Senior Margan Lamb uses a micrapipette to put a sample into an electraphoresis mixture as Senior Alisa Bryant watches. The lab illustrates to students how farensic scientists separate DNA to determine a match. "I took as many science classes as I could," Bryant said. She intends to study to become a microbialogist or an immunologist after attending college and medical school.

"Some of the labs we do in AP Chemistry are to define different chemicals," Senior Penny Czasnyka said. Czasnyka works in the chemistry lab with her partner Senior Ana Adame. Czasnyka maintains her grade easily by doing her work. "The other AP classes I am enrolled in are Language and Composition, Government and Calculus," Czasnyka added.

Working together, AP Biology teacher Mr. Joseph Atria helps Junior Lacey Richards with a lab. "What challenges the students is the fast pace we move at trying to cover all the details before the trimester is up," Mr. Atria said. "There is no certain grade requirement, but you have to have a B or better in chemistry or should be in physics to take an AP class," Mr. Atria added.

With a steady hand, Junior Megan Vinsan pours the liquid into the beaker. "I really liked biology and chemistry because I thought it would be an enjoyable class," Vinsan said. She stated that the hardest part of an AP class is getting more in-depth with different information.

Ms. Daphne Pantazis

Q: What song is the theme song of your life?
A: "Forever" by Drake

Mr. Collin Elliat

Q: How would you describe your teaching style?
A: I approach students with respect and I expect it to be shown back.

Mr. T. J. Lux

Q: What is an inspiring quote you would give to your students?
A: Tell me not of your likes and dislikes they are of no consequences just do what must be done for this may not bring happiness for it may bring greatness.

Ms. Samantha St. Aubin

Q: Which teacher do you find most intimidating?
A: I find Mr. Mizmo most intimidating

Mrs. Hannah Corando

Q: Which candy bar describes your personality?
A: Snickers. I like to laugh and I have a variety of lovers one which is a little nutty!

Mrs. Shana Chelich

Q: What is a secret habit you have?
A: I take my shoes off when the kids leave my class.

Mr. Bruce Curme

Q: What was your first memory at MHS?
A: Mr. Krutz. He made quite impression on me.

Mrs. Chyamiah Martin- Robinson

Q: Where did you work as a teenager?
A: IU child care and the Boys & Girls Club in Gary.

Mr. Gary Schlinger

Q: How would you describe your teaching style?
A: The spice of life: change things up.

Mr. Donovan Estridge

Q: What is the weirdest trend at MHS?
A: That everyone talks about having swag.

Mr. Sean Kinsey

Q: What's an inspiring quote you would give to your students?
A: Google one.

Mrs. Katelyn Holsclaw

Q: What did you want to be when you were younger?
A: A journalist.

Mr James Stomper joined the MHS administrative team this yeor after working for two years in the Alternative School progrom ond seven years teaching in the Sociol Studies Department. His odvice to new teachers: "Move your desk to the middle of the classroom. You should be no more than three steps away from ony student in your closs ot all times."

As on administrotor Mrs. Marnito Toylor works with seniors. She joined the MHS stoff ofter teaching math for ten years and working as on administrotor at Clifford Pierce Middle School for four "My advice to new teachers is to be consistent," she said

NEW TEACHERS

LOVE OF STUDENTS DRAWS TEACHERS TO CLASSROOM

Joining the staff this year were two history teachers, two English teachers, two world language teachers, four science teachers, a social worker and a basic skills math teacher.

"When hiring new staff members, I look for people who have good classroom manners and who build meaningful relationships with kids," Principal Mr. Mike Krutz said.

Mr. Krutz said he was not shocked to have to hire 12 new teachers because in previous years he had to hire more teachers at the beginning of the year.

Also joining the staff was Assistant Principal Mrs. Marnita Taylor from Pierce Middle School.

"I love both Pierce and the high school, but I like the high school better because the students are more mature and older. I also love seeing how the students have matured since seventh and eighth grade," Mrs. Taylor said.

Mr. Dave Teeter has been part of the staff for 36 years. Mr. Teeter started working at MHS in 1970 but left after 11 years to work for the mill and Crown Point High School.

Mr. Teeter then returned in 1986 and has worked in the Industrial Technology Department as a graphic arts teacher since.

"The qualities you need to have to be successful at MHS are you have to love students and love working with them. You also have to love what you do and what you teach," he said.

"The third quality new teachers need to have," Mr. Teeter added, "is to be strong with discipline but fair at the same time."

ACADEMIC CLUBS

Members of the Super Bowl Team focused on the theme of colonial America this year. "We prepared for the season by having weekly practice sessions and attending a group study session with other area schools at Portage," Coach Rob Bedwell said. The team finished in fifth place at the Hobart Invitational and placed second in the Fine Arts category in the area competition.

Super Bowl

Sponsors: Mr. Rob Bedwell, Ms Debbie Monix

Front row: Allisan Granli, Canrad Czasnyko, Monsoor Arifee Sean Gibsan; Second row: Dorryl Miller, Jacob Swierc, Joseph Witkowski; Back Raw: Mrs. Monix, Alexander Swierc, Michael Anderson, Mr. Bedwell.

Members of the Academic Decathlon Team explored the topic of imperialism this year. Their competition is made up of ten events, including math, science, art and music, with objective tests in seven areas. Students are required to write a speech and prepare an interview for their practices of two hours a week. In February the team advanced to the state competition, where it placed ninth among 20 schools.

Academic Decathlon

Sponsors: Mr. Joson Sonnenberg Mrs. Rachel Sannenberg

Frant raw: Allison Granli, Sarah Brodash, Chelsea Bowen, AuShaura Trimble; Secand raw: Brooklyn Russel Sean Gibson, Dorryl Miller; Back raw: Mrs. Sonnenberg, Jocob Swierc, Joseph Witkowski, Alexander Swierc, Mr. Sannenberg.

Random questions are asked in the Jeopardy style environment of a Quiz Bowl competition. "It's more about having fun and blowing off some steam that comes with being a high schooler," Coach Jason Sonnenberg said. The team did not advance out of the DAC competition.

Quiz Bowl

Sponsor: Mr. Jason Sonnenberg
Front row: Kourtney Woods, Allison Gronli, Lauren Corniello, Koelin Sanchez, Coleb Sanchez, Mackenzie Pearson; Second row: Monsoor Arifee, Sean Gibson, Nadia Duke, Joseph Patton, Jacob Swierc; Back row: Daniel Torulis, Joseph Witkowski, Alexander Swierc, Michael Anderson, Mr. Sonnenberg

The Spell Bowl Team practiced twice a week to prepare for the area competition. The members worked off a list of 3500 words. During competition, ten team members compete and each spells nine words. "Mrs. Steiner retired so I decided to jump in and take over," Coach Debbie Monix said. The team did not advance out of the local competition.

Spell Bowl

Sponsor: Ms. Debbie Monix
First row: Coleb Sanchez, Allison Gronli, Soroh Brodosh, Lauren Corniello, Christopher Ho; Second row: Joseph Patton, Sean Gibson, Morgan Wolton, Monsoor Arifee; Back row: Ms. Monix, Daniel Torulis, Jacob Swierc, Joseph Witkowski, Alexander Swierc

ACADEMIC CLUBS

JETS is an organization for students who are interested in pursing a career in engineering. Professional engineers sponsor the Junior Engineering Technical Society engineering competition for the high school students. The competition sponsors provide scenarios that are related to the competition and JETS students study them all year. This year's theme was health.

Junior Engineering Technical Society

Sponsors: Mr. Bruce Curme and Mr. Gary Schlinger

Front row: Freedom Johnson, Nikka Sadural, Pauline Panayi, Colin Cook. Second row: Mathew Horms, Wayne Whitmer, Andrea Mathis; Back row: Mr. Schlinger, Randy Bultema, Weijiang Liu, Joshua Haynes, Mr. Curme.

Science Olympiad consists of 21 different science competitions in 5 areas: physics, chemistry, biology, earth science and engineering. Medals are given at regionals for the first five places. The regional was held at Purdue University Calumet March 3, 2012. The team had a total of ten students. "The team did not have enough students to cover every event, but we were strong in chemistry and physics," Mr. Bruce Curme said. The team did not advance out of the regional.

Science Olympiad

Sponsor: Mr. Bruce Curme, Mr. Gary Schlinger

Front row: Aerieyle Peterson, Nichole Anderson, Pauline Panayi, Emily Granli; Second row: Mr. Schlinger, Nikko Sadural, Joseph Patton, Mansoor Arifee, Mr. Curme; Back raw: Dane Ezernack, Mathew Horms, Weijiong Liu.

Speech & Debate
Sponsor: Mr. Allen Mizimakoski
Front row: Brianne Baylar, Louren Harding, Nykia Lewis, Jibria Ali; Second row: Maryam Ali, Josmine Washington, Richard Gomez; Back row: Joshua Haynes, Christopher Turner, Mr. Mizimakoski

The Speech and Debate team placed seventh of 21 schools with the help from Juniors Jibria Ali and Nykia Lewis. This is the team's first time to earn a ribbon from a competition. Coach Allen Mizimakoski is excited for what his team achieved. "I was so excited for them, teenagers who act like professionals, who work so hard. They deserve everything they've achieved. Keeping their composure in a heated debate meant more to me than the last win itself," Mr. Mizimakoski said.

Mock Trial
Sponsor: Mrs. Sharon Row
Front row: Josmine Washington, Poige Miller, Jibria Ali, AuShauro Trimble, Aries Edwards; Back row: Megon Austin, Alyssa Ahrens, Mrs. Raw.

The Mock Trial team was the third highest scoring school of 16 teams. The all- female team consisted of Captain Sophomore AuShaura Trimble, Seniors Alyssa Ahrens, Paige Miller, Jasmine Washington, Aries Edwards, Junior Jibria Ali and Sophomore Megan Austin. "The girls bonded so closely you weren't able to know who was captain," Coach Sharon Row said. "It was a team. They shared motivating notes with each other. They helped each other, and they were brilliant. I couldn't be more proud."

Discussing a conflict in testimony, Mrs. Sharon Row works with members of the Mock Trial Team. 'The best part of Mock Trial is getting to know the legal terms and becoming smarter.' Sophomore Megan Austin said. Jabria Ali, seated next to Austin, said she joined Mock Trial because she was in a competition over the summer and wanted to be on a formal team.

BEYOND THE SCHOOL D

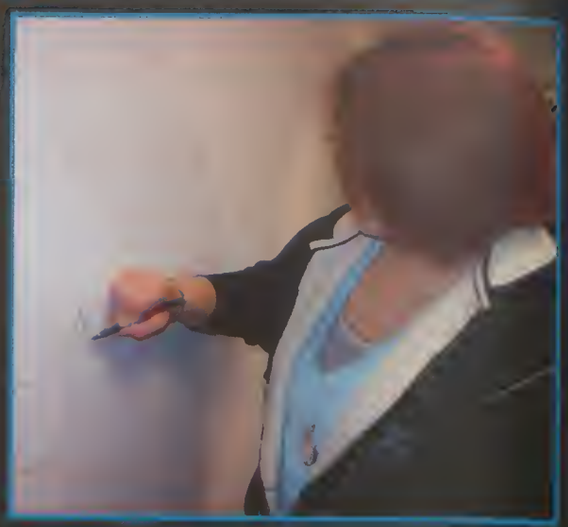
Working with other members of Student Government Senior Spree Long puts the conned goods from the Thanksgiving Food Drive into boxes for delivery to Saints Peter and Poul Parish in Merrillville. "We collected around 5,000 canned goods," Long said. Student Government also spansors the Christmas Wish List and Crush fundraiser on Volentine's Day

One of 16 active members of the Environmental Club Senior Jored Knox puts the recyclables into the bin. "The best part of being in the Environmental Club is the feeling I get knowing I'm helping the world" Knox said. Each Tuesday members collected paper cardboard and plastic. Spansor Mr Charles Gleason said the school recycled 12 tons of paper during the 2011-12 school year. Members also recycled electronics collecting 4 laptops 3 digital cameras 14 ink cartridges and 40 cell phanes.

At the front of the Homecoming parade members of the AFROTC carry the American and Air Force flags as the parade makes its way through the neighborhood surrounding the school. The Color Guard includes Juniors James Schilling and Jocelyn Recio and Sophomores Lynette Ruiz and Marcus Boss. "Being in ROTC gives me a taste of the military" Bass said. Boss plans to join the Marines after he graduates. "I want to be a Marine because I want to fight for my country like the men in my family" Boss added

During the Key Club Carnival in November, Junior Timothy Shelton of Permanent Ink presents his poem. "I joined Permanent Ink to help out my rap skills and better my vocabulary," Shelton said. The poem Shelton presented was about his cousin who died in 2008. Permanent Ink has performed at many events throughout the school year, including Drama Club's Revue and STAND's coffee house. "My favorite part about being in Permanent Ink is the performances," Shelton added. At the Louder Than a Bomb competition in Chicago, Permanent Ink came in first of four teams in both of their preliminary bouts and came in second after they advanced to the semi-finals.

In the main cafeteria's teacher lounge, Junior Denisha Crawford draws a mural on the wall as part of an Art Club project. "The purpose of the mural is to help relax teachers so they can imagine their retirement," Crawford said. Art Club members first drew the design in pencil and then painted the wall. The scene reveals a beach front with an ocean view. Art Club members also made decorations for the Key Club Carnival and Chili Cook-Off, painted a chair for the Cherish the Children charity and constructed a map of credit requirements that are needed for graduation. The map hangs in the main office.



Permanent Ink

Sponsor: Mr. Dave Hossler

Front row: Vincent Ashley, Xavier Pitts, Timothy Shelton, Megan Vinson, Trey'Vonn Washington; Second row: Dajshana Smith-Washington, Brianne Baylor, Alva Wilson, Joshua Holmes; Third row: Assistant coach Ms. Daphne Pantazis, Steven Reed, Maurisha Lord, LeKisha Potterson; Back row: Brandon Neal, Mr. Hossler, Brandon Vlasic. Not pictured: Eugene Dykes, Coach Demetrius Amparan.

Socially Together and Naturally Diverse

Sponsor: Mr. Danny Lackey

Front row: Maurisha Lord, Ankobia Ruth Jose Gonzalez, April Bailey, Avianna Villarreal; Second row: Antoinette Smith, Kenyatta Richards, Shavon Graham, Elizabeth Nino, Susana Tirado, Lashiona Young, Willa Earwin, Taylor Cody, Michallia Ward, Alyssa Ross; Third row: Shenio Loper, Rebecca Paul, Naphtalia Ruth, Saleah Smith, Rachel Humes, Kirsten Wiley, Nadio Duke, Elizabeth Long, Latonyo Harrison, Ronald Woods; Fourth row: Hannah Villarreal, Koty Guzek, Arrisa Allen, Kiaro Fuller, Jalisa Mosley, TaChina Smith, Darryl King, Rena' Petty, Cassandro Govert; Back row: Mr. Lackey, Kurledio Thomas, Anthony Thomas, Anthony Luckett, Steven Reed, Joshua Haynes, Weijiang Liu, Darroil Brown, Jordan Reaves, Angelique Oyervides.

With the smell of chili in the air, Social Studies teacher Mr. Dan Schoon serves the judges his Firehouse Chili. Assisting him is his wife, Jennifer Schoon. This is my first year entering the Chili Cook-Off. It was for a helpful cause and it was just an entertaining experience," Mr. Schoon said. A U.S. government and U.S. history teacher, Mr. Schoon is a volunteer firefighter for Griffith. Key Club sponsor Mrs. Carrie Bedwell said more than $6,000 was raised for the Lupus Foundation. During the event, Key Club member Sophomore Alexis Deter provides more tasting cups for Ms. DeeDee Allemon's chili. Allemon's Cousin Bubba's Lucky Chili won second place.

Key Club

Sponsor: Mrs. Carrie Bedwell

Front row: Tatyana Johnson, Christa Martin, Elizabeth Niño Chloe' Howard, Shawnay Lardydell; Second row: Shenia Loper, Alexis Deter, Melanie Atria, Brittney Upshaw, Seniobia Sanders, LaTonya Harrison; Third row: Naeemah White, Whitney Reese, Brittany Bass, Shawnece Williams, Raelyn Greene; Back row: Korey Smith, Samantha Triplett, Joshua DeLeon, Kayla Greene.

Art Club

Sponsor: Mrs. Janet Anderson

Front row: Daverious Teat, Richard Gomez, Sabrina Abrams, Jennayi Burden, Cornell Tucker III; Second row: Denisha Crawford, Allisa Bryant, Lauren Tillman, Mrs. Anderson; Back row: Edward Riley, Mikaelo Cristofaro.

At the annual Y.E.S. fundraising event for the Lymphoma and Leukemia Foundation, president Senior Jasmine Jones sells baked goods to Junior Jibria Ali. "Every March Y.E.S. club always does a fundraiser that goes towards the Lymphoma and Leukemia Foundation," Jones said. The fundraiser netted $500 this year for the foundation. "This was one of our best fundraisers," Jones said.

Youth Enriched by Service

Sponsor: Mr. Michael Knocke

Front raw: Iyana Bulter, La'Sierra Smith, Brittony Jones, Inesha Smith, Brianna Cardona- Arroya, Taylor Cody; Second row: Simone Graham, Alyssa Ross, Jozmin Jones, LaTonyo Harrison, Kientoye Turnipseed; Third row: Keonna Colbert, Taylar Worrell, Valencio Cox, Potricia Spikes, Alva Wilson, Mia Patikas; Back raw: Anthony Luckett, Bruce Billingsley, Mr. Knocke.

At the weekly Bible Club meeting, Freshmen Jayson Hunter and David Lewis listen to a reading from the Bible. Lewis, who was encouraged by Hunter to join, said, "I grew up in the church and I just wanted to learn more about God." Hunter said it helped with his struggles. Meetings are Wednesday and Thursday in the Arena and are open to anyone. That day, Nicole O'Neil, who is training for the ministry at Hyles-Andersan College and a few others, came to listen.

Bible Club

Sponsor: Mr. Dan Moslander

Front raw: Sabrina Abrams, Jennayi Burden, Briana Wolker, Charis Burgstohler; Second row: Chardonnay Balkcom, Allisa Bryant, Naté Hardin, Elizobeth Long; Back row: Caleb Pirtle, Mr. Moslander. Not Pictured: Micah Burgstohler.

"The Candlelight Walk gave me an opportunity to walk for people who passed away," Senior Bria Brumfield said. Brumfield said she was encouraged by people from SADD and Mr. Danny Lackey. "The walk made me feel emotional," Alexander Brumfield said. The SADD Candlelight Walk had about 20 participants this year. The walk is held each year for victims, survivors, advocates, friends and their families or those emotionally impacted by the crime of drunk or impaired driving.

At Bowl for Kids, Sophomore Ana Hernandez counts donations with Junior Marissa Mongold and Sophomore Alisan Nowak. FEA raised $2000 toward scholarships far senior FEA members. "I feel that the fundraiser was very successful. It was alsa fun seeing the teachers dressed up in their crazy t-shirts and bowling in their teams," Hernandez said.

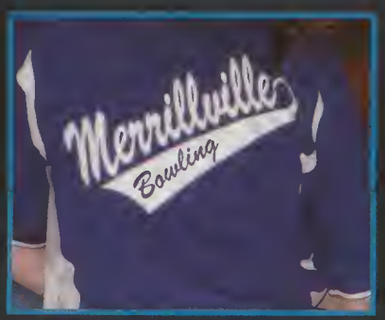
At the National Honor Society induction, Senior Sarah Barnard displays her service project board about the walk-a-thon. In November, the members of NHS sponsored the walk-a-thon and raised $1500 for the Special Needs Department. The members are required to complete 20 hours of community service, as well as attend the meetings and have at least a 3.5 grade point average.

National Honor Society

Sponsors: Mrs. Erin Flores and Mr. Nick Petrolia
Front raw: Samuel Gubitz, Alyssa Nymeyer, Pauline Panayi; Second raw: Kourtney Woods, Lauren Kiser, Ashley Williams, Lauren Carniello, Alexis Traylor, Penny Czosnyko, Ashley Witkowski, Ashley Ahlborn, Crystal Garcia; Third raw: Nikka Sadurol, Brianna Fotinos, Tiffany Lee, Caleb Sanchez, Abraham Garcia, Mansoor Arifee, Ana Adame, Joseph Patton; Fourth raw: Conrad Czosnyka, Nakel McClinton, Aries Edwards, Brei Murphy, Korey Smith, Sean Gibson; Back row: Mrs. Flores, Tyler Kepchar, Zachary Roberts, Luqmann Ruth, Erin Weiss, Patricia Spikes.

Future Educators of America

Sponsor: Ms. Kristina Mueller
Front row: Antoinette Smith, Paige Miller, Ana Hernandez; Second raw: Marissa Mongold, Alison Nowak, Joshua DeLeon, Hollyann Erskine; Back row: Terrance Dabdee, Ms. Mueller.



Junior Amber Falashetti sports her bowling shirt during the FEA Bowl for Kids funrdraiser. As the team stretches to prepare for competition, Senior Robin Jakich discusses bowling strategies with her teammates, Juniors Carlysle Larson, Marissa Taylor and Falashetti. "We get along very well, and that's what makes our matches sa much fun," said Larson. She has been bowling for 12 years and has been part of the Merrillville Bowling Team since her freshman year.

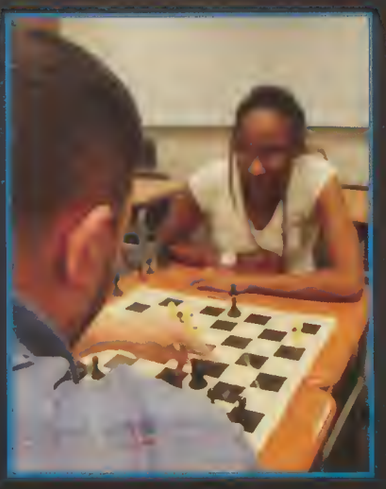
Voices of Reason

Sponsor: Ms. Jermece Williamson
Front row: Zhanique Hudson, Jazmin Jones, Alyssa Ross, Megan Wilkerson; Back raw: Waymon Cruse, Robert Parson, Raelyn Purham.

Boys' and Grils' Bowling

Sponsors: Mrs. Poulo and Mr. Dave Larson
Front raw: Robin Jakich, Marissa Taylor, Mikaela Crisofaro, Carlysle Larson; Second row: Amber Falaschetti, Jacob Swierc, Kasey Stewart; Back raw: Alexander Swierc, Joseph Witawski. Not pictured: Richard Witowski, Anthony Turner, Alexander Sampson, Tyler Shockey, Matthew Meacham.

Preparing for the spring musical, "The Secret Garden," Sophomore Darryl King builds a hedge on wheels. "Building sets for this play was very time consuming," King said. It took about eight weeks to prepare. "I got involved in Drama Club because I was in two of Mr. Elser's classes previously. He made Drama Club seem a lot of fun and it was," King said.



With Chess Club sponsor Sean Meagher as her partner, Sophomore Victoria Miller thinks about her next move. The first-year Chess Club member went to the team state tournament as an alternate. Seniars Jashua Drapeau, Christian Williams, Junior Jashua Haynes and Sophomore Damian DiGangi attended the tournament as the team from MHS.

Drama Club

Sponsor: Mr. Steve Elser
Front row: Imani Shelby, Taylor Carter, William Akins III, Kathleen Murphy; Second raw: Conor Shea, Robyn Jackson, Sierra Vasquez, Alyssa Ahrens, Katlyn Ison, Shelby Holden, Kandice Nicholson, Chardonnary Balkcom; Third raw: Mr. Elser, Christopher McCay, Nadia Duke, Hannah Bailey, Yvon Anguiano, Alison Nowak, Allyssa Nihal; Third raw: Tremael Morgan, Adrian Weaver, Jasmine Washington, Hollyann Erskine, Megan Austin, Kayla Gront, Kiera Shackelford; Back raw: Joshua DeLeon, Brandy Blackman, Travanté Cooper, Haley McDaniel, Alexander Dailey.

Society of Student Authors

Sponsor: Mrs. Melissa Sickinger
Front row: Aurielle Carson, Mia Patikas, Alva Wilson; Back row: Tatyana Johnson, Mrs. Sickinger.

Chess Club

Sponsors: Mr. Sean Meagher and Mr. Harry Boskamp
Front row: Krishna Shah, Shannon Thurson; Dennis Dombrowski, Nykia Lewis; Second row: Devon Reed, Damian DiGangi, Victoria Miller, Joshua Haynes; Back row: Mr. Meagher, Matthew Proper, Corey Witherspoon, Mr. Boskamp.

Peer Helpers

Mayrisha Ised, Allise Bryont

Merrillville Pirate Athletic Council

Sponsor: Ms. Janis Qualizza

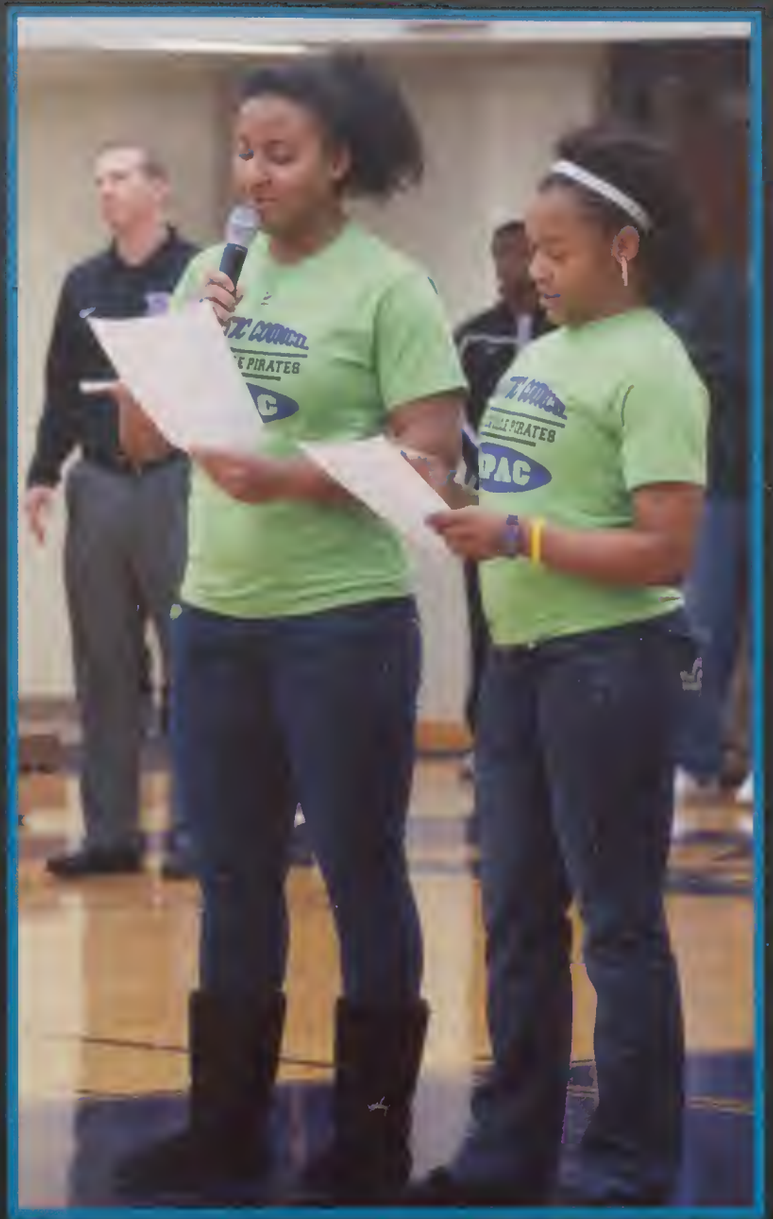
Front raw:- Abraham Garcia, Taylor Woods, Lauren Carniella, Anjelica Peppers, Marissa Taylor, Victoria Collins, Miranda Vega; Second row: Natalia Ooms, Amy Aponte, Michael Garza, Darian Patton, Julie Ross; Third raw: Danae Baskin, Nakel McClinton, Alexandra Domoras, Cyerra Sims, Mansoor Arifee, Myranda Harris; Back raw: Jacob Raspopovich, Dean Davis, Kourtney Berry, Caleb Pirtle, Alexander Swierc, Matthew Warren, Austin Jamerson.

Freshman Mentors

Sponsor: Mrs. Lorri Covaciu, Mrs. Rae Lopez

Front row: Belia Mercado, Jasalynn Lockett, Dayanna Arichavala, Jibria Ali, April Bailey, Alexis Traylor, Brianna Cardona-Arrayall, Dana Collins, Brittany Jones, Latonya Harrison, Alyssa Ross, Taylor Pierce; Second raw: Dante Pickett, ShyOra Tolbert, Justice Williams, Camisha Mitchell, Mikaila Lomax, Jazmin Jones, Amy Aponte, Erica Homeier, Taylar Warrell, Leticica Ontiveros, Unique Reed, Tiffany Lee, Paris White, Kayla Washington, Aurielle Powell, Zacarria Bailey, Lauren Blackwell; Third raw: Jared Knox, Devin Westbrooks, Rebecca Paul, Brittney Bass, Brianne Baylor, Nykia Lewis, Julie Ross, Lacey Richards, Darryl Peppers, Frank Jefferson, Logan Hubbord, Daniel Jimenez, Rudolph Sanchez, Mansoor Arifee, Leonard Mathews II, Kevin Woodfork; Fourth row: Christopher Turner, John Mosley Jr., Jacob Styx, Jordan Thomas, Kaylene Wright, Christopher Sumichrast, Otavi Locke, Anthony Luckett, Elizabeth Long, Alejandra Mata, Rosalyn Baker, Jalisa Mosley, TaChina Smith, Anthony Chamberlain, Channon Thomas II; Back raw: Austin Jamerson, Adrian Weaver, Brei Murphy, Jasmine Washington, Kayla Greene, Kourtney Berry, Sir-James Joiner III, Caleb Pirtle, Delaun Kirk, Khari Reed, Don Taylor Jr., Nicholas Delgado, Jacob Raspopovich, Joseph Traina, Joseph Cowser.

MPAC, Peer Mediators, Freshman Mentors, Class Officers



Standing at the free throw line, Senior Nakel McClinton and Junior Anjelica Peppers deliver the sportsmanship message at a home basketball game against Lowell. "MPAC is all about leadership, confidence and being able to be the best person you can be," Peppers said. Both Peppers and McClintan represent track in Merrillville Pirate Athletic Council, which is usually comprised of one junior and one senior from each athletic team. "I love it for the fact that it teaches you how to be a leader, which is what people expect out of everyone in MPAC."

Class of 2012 Officers

Sponsors: Mr. Allen Mizmakowski, Mrs. Teresa Procter and Mr. Paul Unterfranz

Mansoor Arifee, Alexis Taylor, Lauren Carniella, Sam Gubitz.

Class of 2013 Officers

Sponsors: Mr. Nick Petralia and Mr. Dan Schoon

Jibria Ali, Brianne Baylor, Nykia Lewis, Marissa Taylor.

Class of 2014 Officers

Sponsor: Ms. Jarmece Williamson

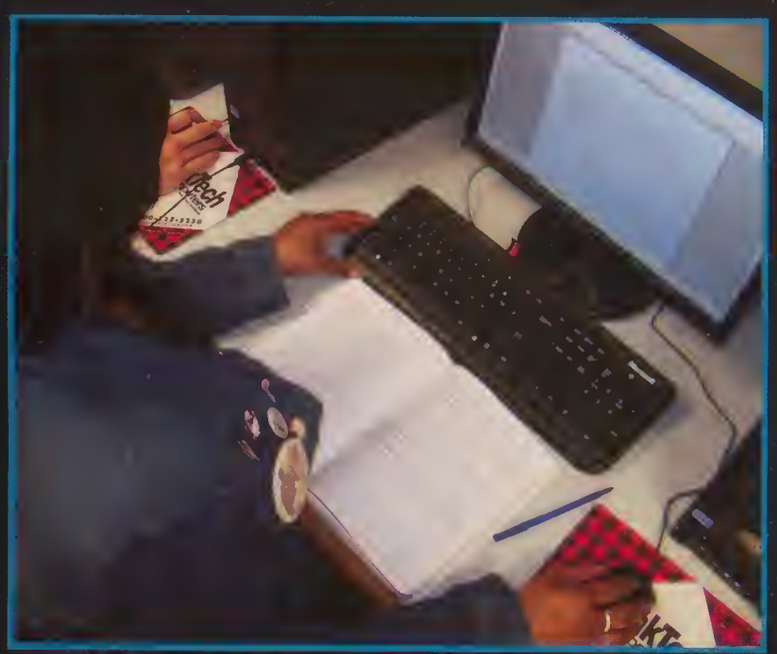
Megan Austin, Adam Tapper, Nadia Duke, Angelique Oyervides.

Class of 2015 Officers

Sponsor: Ms. Sara Hurey and Ms. Sarah Boyle

David Lewis, Da'JaiNay Ashew, Simone Young, Jayon Hunter.

While filming a segment for the Friday Show, Junior Tia Harris records Sophomore Adrianne Marquez. "I would rather record than be the main persan because I don't like being in front of the camera," Harris said. PNN presents a morning show each day and The Friday Show each week. At the annual Indiana Association of School Broadcasters' state competition, the Friday Show staff won second place in the video magazine categary.



With an eye on her notes, Senior News Editor Jalisa Mosley works on the story for the April edition of The Mirror. Student journalists cover all school events including sports, extra curricular and academic stories. They write, edit and produce 12 issues each year.

Quill and Scroll

Adviser: Mrs. Teresa Procter

Front row: Lauren Kiser, Amy Aponte, Samuel Gubitz, Ashley Gray, Allisa Bryant; Second raw: Aurielle Carson, Haley McDaniel, Ana Adame, Nakel McClinton; Back raw: Jalisa Mosley, Joseph Cowser. Not pictured: Elizabeth Long, Rebecca Broom.

Pirate News Network

Advisers: Mr. Brian Past and Mr. Josh Harvoth

Front row: Shawnay Lardydell, Emma Bice, Conor Shea, Mackenzie Milon; Second row: Mr. Past, Alexandra Domoras, Rosalyn Baker, Tia Harris, Mr. Harvoth; Back row: Adam Serwacki, Tyler Schilling, Ian Stacks, Charles Pyatt.

Newspaper

Adviser: Mrs. Teresa Procter

Front row: Alexandra Woodberry, Conrad Czsonyka, Samuel Gubitz, Jacob Larson, Cassandra Gavert; Back raw: Brandon Neal, Jalisa Mosley, Nadia Duke, Kyle Durham, Joseph Patton, Nakel McClinton, Ana Adame. Not pictured: Aurielle Carson, Allisa Bryant, Carley Laughead.

Student Government

Sponsor: Mr. Michael Knocke

Front raw: Kora Bramson, Alice Canchola, Alexis Traylor, Lauren Carniella, Simone Graham, Kayla Brock, Kientaye Turnipseed, Jasmine King; Second row: Meagan Clarkson, Paige Miller, Jessica Vasquez, Erica Homeier, Melody Harris, Frank Jefferson, Stephanie Barnard, Samuel Gubitz; Third row: Dana Collins, D'Shae Brown, Lauren Blackwell, Valencia Cox, Mia Patikas, Mansoor Arifee, Spree Lang, Maurisha Lord; Back raw: Caleb Pirtle, Julie Ross, Chaloni Walker, Christopher Turner, Mathew Harms, Zachary Roberts, Mr. Knocke.

Student Government Officers

Sponsor: Mr. Michael Knocke

Front raw: Frank Jefferson, Dana Collins, Mathew Harms; Back row: Christopher Turner, Mr. Knocke.

During December, Student Government members Senior Mansoor Arifee and Junior Erica Homier organize the gifts for the Christmas Wish List. "It was a great feeling to know that children who weren't able to afford gifts were able to receive them and enjoy Christmas," Arifee said. 114 children were fortunate enough to recieve gifts. Arifee said he enjoys helping the community. "One of the best parts of being in student government is Mr. Michael Knocke. He is a great role model and a wonderful person," Arifee added.

At the annual visit to the Art Institute in Chicago, members of the French IV and Spanish IV classes enjoy lunch al fresco. Seniors Chardanay Balkom, Rena Petty, Ashley Williams and Simone Graham studied an art unit during the third trimester. "We want the students to experience the original paintings," French teacher Ms. Irene Spiro said. "Art truly comes alive for them on this fieldtrip and they enjoy it."

Spanish Club

Sponsor: Mrs. Esmeralda Palmerin- Zamora
Kayleen Mendoza, Crystal Quintera, Mrs. Palmerin- Zamora, Gildardo Quintero.

German & Russian Club

Sponsor: Mr. Al Stoner
Front row: Allison Gronli, Sarah Bradash, Emily Gronli, Alison Nowak; Second row: Dennis Dombrowski, Mikaela Cristofaro, Eric Slade, Jacob Swierc, Edward Riley; Back row: Joseph Witkawski, Megan Austin, Mr. Stoner.

Youth Alive

Sponsors: Mr. Kyle Prow and Mr. Alan Branda
Front row: Ashley Witkowski, Jasmine Gruchmal, Charis Burgstahler; Second row: Mr. Prow, Alexis Deter, Jasmin Navarro, Mr. Branda; Back row: Micah Burgstahler, Victoria Miller, Elizabeth Long.

English as a New Language

Sponsor: Ms. Dawn Czuba

Front raw: Meagan Clarkson, Elise Anguiano, Krishna Shah, Mam Samba, Yiqi Duan, Yasmin Yasin; Second raw: Elizabeth Niño, Madeline Estrada, Adriano da Cunha, Alfredo Niño, Jonathan Salazer; Third raw: Ms. Kathryn Gaines, Kelly Nangin, Destiny Felix, Saleh Algahmi, Jana Seidel; Back raw: Edgar Rodriguez, Alejandra Acosta Jr., Braiyan Rodriguez, Ms. Czuba.

French Club

Sponsor: Miss Irene Spira

First raw: Amber Falaschetti, Bianca Maldonado, Meagan Clarkson, Megan Vinson, Victoria Collins; Second raw: Allyssa Mihal, Marissa Taylor, Tom Hagan III, Yvon Anguiano; Third raw: Miss Spira, Darryl Miller, Jonah Ducret, Simone Graham; Back row: Jordan Reaves, Ankobia Ruth, William Perry.

Dressed up as Charlie the Blood Drop, Senior Allisa Bryant checks a list of student names for the first blood drive with Family, Community and Career Leaders of America sponsor Ms. Carol VonBehren. Sixteen-year-old students who weigh 110 pounds and are in good health are eligible to donate blood. Between the two blood drives sponsored by FCCLA, 262 pints of blood were donated by students and staff. Bryant, who served as co-president of FCCLA, said she enjoyed playing the part. "Being who I am, I really didn't care what people thought or what I looked like," Bryant said.

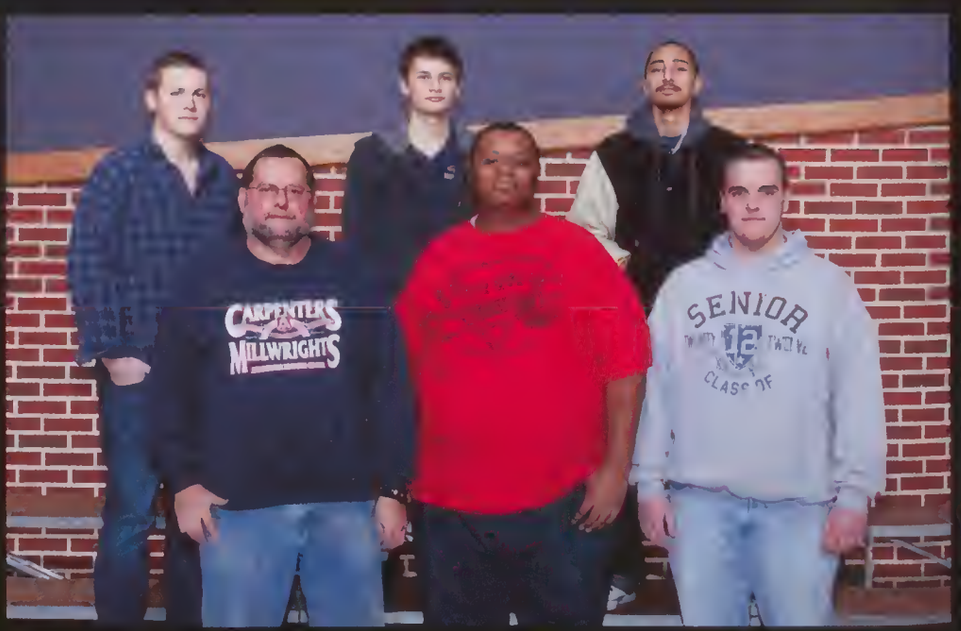
After class is over, Sophomore Thomas Novak helps Senior Sabrina Abrams empty recycling bins. "People are irgnorant ta the fact that they are negatively effecting the eorth," Abrams said. Abram enjoys hanging with friends while recycling."When you encourage children ta start restaring the earth at a young age it helps with the future," Abrams said.

Athletic Trainers

Sponsor: Mr. Sean Hudson

Julie Ross, Inesha Smith, Brittney Bass

To prepare Junior Amy Aponte to take the gymnastics mat, Junior Julie Ross tapes her ankle. Ross and her fellow trainers help athletes in all sports. They tape ankles, set up stem treatments for injured athletes, and provide ice and water during athletic contests. Some trainers take the Introduction to Physical Therapy class to learn the methods.



Building Trades

Sponsor: Mr. Bob Mackovyak

Front row: Mr. Mackovyak, Channon Thomas, Dean Davis; Back row: Joshua Bromberg, Joshua Walker, Jonathon Velasquez.

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America

Sponsor: Ms. Caral Von Behren

Front raw: Elise Anguiano, Yasmin Yasin, Lauren Smith, Krishina Shah, Sherese Hopson, Sherelle Hopson; Second raw: Jennayi Burden, Kayla Sadural. Alyssa Nymeyer, Jessica Reed, Isabella Stevens, Sabrina Abrams, Ms. Von Behren; Third raw: Madeline Estrada, Ronald Woods, Allisa Bryant, Seinobia Sanders, Raelyn Greene, Brittany Mulligan; Back raw: Carlysle Larson, Yvonya Randle, Nia McMurray, Britnye Cameron, Branden Hull, Morgan Shumpert.

Environmental Club

Sponsor: Mr. Charles Gleason

Front raw: Reginia Torres, E'Taya Doss, Tyshay Doss, Simone Graham, Robyn Jackson; Second row: Jennayi Burden, Thomas Novak Jr., Ravon Turner, Dynonta' Robinson; Back raw: Charles Pyatt II, Allisa Bryant, Brandy Blackmon, Mr. Gleason.

BEYOND THE TIC

Aboard the Senior Class float Seniors Samuel Gubitz and Daniel Jimenez add posters to the decorations. "It took us awhile to find all the props we needed," Gubitz said. The senior class voted to use the MTV Awards as their float's theme

At the Revue, Senior Brandon Neal performs his poem "Secrets." "I enjoy rapping because it's the most positive way to get my opinion out," Neal said. Neal's inspiration for rapping is negativity. "The best part of being on the Poetry Slam is meeting different poets and seeing what level you are on compared to your different components," Neal added. Neal has been in Poetry Slam since his junior year because it is his closest outlet to rap at school.

Dancing the night away with Sophomore Michael Spudic her date for the night Sophomore Taylor Woods wishes she could replay that night. "The best part of my night was being able to spend time with my boyfriend and friends all at the same time and just having fun," Woods said. Spudic was grateful to have the chance to go with his girlfriend. "She is the most amazing girl and she made the dance so much better," Spudic added.

BEYOND THE FUN

Homecoming Week was filled with nerds, students' own versions of celebrities and wacky, tacky dressers.

On Thursday, the Homecoming parade included music, floats and queen nominees and led to the Goofy Games and the famous Pudding Slide.

The week of crazy apparel and games preceeded the big Homecoming football game, the crowning of the queen and the dance Saturday night.

The football team kicked off the weekend with a victory over conference rival LaPorte as many students were in the stands showing their Pirate pride.

At halftime, Senior Alejandra Mata was crowned Homecoming Queen, while Senior Kourtney Berry won the honor of Mr. Football from his teammates.

Following the victory of the football game, many students were eager for the dance.

"The dance was everything I expected and more. The music, decorations and food were great," Senior Kandice Nicholson said.

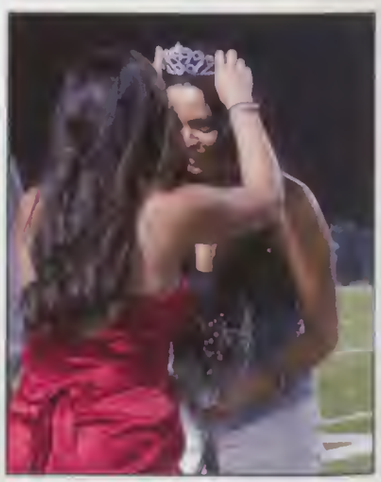
Students didn't just enjoy the dance with their friends and dates. They also enjoyed the rest of the night as well.

"We went to Red Lobster, enjoyed our meal and talked about the dance," Senior Natieka Mathews said.

Homecoming Queen nominee Senior Lauren Blackwell said she was honored to be selected.

"I enjoyed getting nominated. It meant teachers see what I do outside of the classroom," Blackwell said.

ABOVE Nine cans of pudding are used to create a Pudding Slide for the Goofy Games. RIGHT To keep Sophomore William Akins focused Sophomore Ronald Moyersky, Jr yells at him to eat the pudding. "I enjoyed my time at the Goofy Games because they were goofy" Moyersky said. The Goofy Games and parade were held on Thursday as a prelude to the Homecoming football game on Friday and dance on Saturday.



"I had a good time. I've never been to a Merrillville dance before" Senior Taylor Carter said. Carter said she enjoyed her night at the Homecoming dance. About 920 students attended this year's dance almost beating last year's record "The best part was going out to eat and hanging out with my friends" Carter said.

Handing down the crown, Senior Belia Mercado crowns Senior Alejandra Mata as Homecoming Queen. "I was so surprised when I found out I was nominated," Mata said The crowning of the queen was held during halftime at the football game. "I was really happy when I won. It was probably my best senior moment" Mata added.

Chosen by his teammates as 2011 Mr Football Senior Kourtney Berry holds the award with Head Coach Zac Wells. "I was excited. It was a cool feeling that all my teammates picked me out of every other senior," Berry said. "My goal this season was to make it to state. I wasn't thinking about Mr. Football at all."

As seniors prepare for their final Homecoming parade Seniors Samuel Gubitz and Elbryn Goode figure out how everyone is going to sit on the float "The theme for the senior float was MTV Videa Music Awards" Gubitz said The float was put together by Gubitz Goode Seniors Conrad Czosnyka and Rovon Turner. "Basically we just agreed on the theme and then we put the float together from scratch in a couple of days" Gubitz added.

Together at the Freshman-Sophomore Dance, Sophomores Frederick Patterson Jr. and Miah Thornton laugh at an inside joke. "The Freshman-Sophomore Dance was the first step to prom in my view" Thornton said

Dancing with friends, Freshman Roshaod Williams enjoys his time at the Freshman-Sophomore Dance. "The dance was an overall fun experience, and I was glad to see everyone having a good time," Williams said. Williams said he looks forward to attending next year's dance.

After being crowned Freshman Queen, Meagan Clarkson poses with Sophomore Queen Alexandra Dabreo. "After the dance, I went home and my dad said, 'Oh look! A crown' and he put it on his shiny, bald head" Clarkson said. Students who attend the dance vote for the queen candidates as they arrive at the dance. Each girl who attends the dance is a candidate.

Freshmen and sophamores check in at the annual dance sponsored by Family Community, and Career Leaders of America. As they check in, they look over the lists of girls who could become queen for their class. Later they vote for their choice. "About 110 students attended the dance as singles, couples and groups of friends," FCCLA sponsor Ms. Carol Von Behren said.

With friends on the dance floor, Junior Gabriella Floyd dances to the rhythm of the music. "What I liked most about the dance was dancing with my friend Ashley," Floyd said. Floyd did not eat at the dance because she was caught up in the music. "I loved that I got to hang with my friends for a couple of hours," Floyd added.

Wearing a wrist corsage from her parents, Freshmon Crystal Recia enjoys dancing during the annual event for special needs students. "The best songs they played were all of Nicki Minaj's songs," Recia said.

Grooving to the music, Sophomore Jimmy Aiken dances with friends. "My most memorable moment was dancing with my friends to all the rap music," Aiken said. Aiken stated that he had fun and he enjoyed himself. "My favorite song was 'Whatever You Like' by T. I." Aiken added.

DANCING THE NIGHT AWAY

Two nights of socializing and dancing are set aside each year for the Freshman and Sophomore Dance and a dance for special needs students.

Members of the Family Career and Consumer Leaders of America hosted the dances for the 11th time in the spring.

The annual Freshman/Sophomore Spring Formal and the dance for special needs students were moved to May this year. FCCLA members spent hours decorating the main cafeteria for the events.

Sophomore Matthew Hollins said, "My favorite part of the dance was being able to dance with my girlfriend and have a good time."

Hollins was among about 110 students who attended.

"The turnout of this years dance was larger than last year," FCCLA sponsor Ms. Carol Von Behren said.

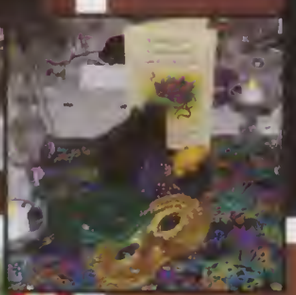
The theme, "Love is in the Air" was carried out with dove and heart decorations and candlelight on the tables.

The decorations were used the following night for the annual dance for special needs students. As in the past, students from several communities attended.

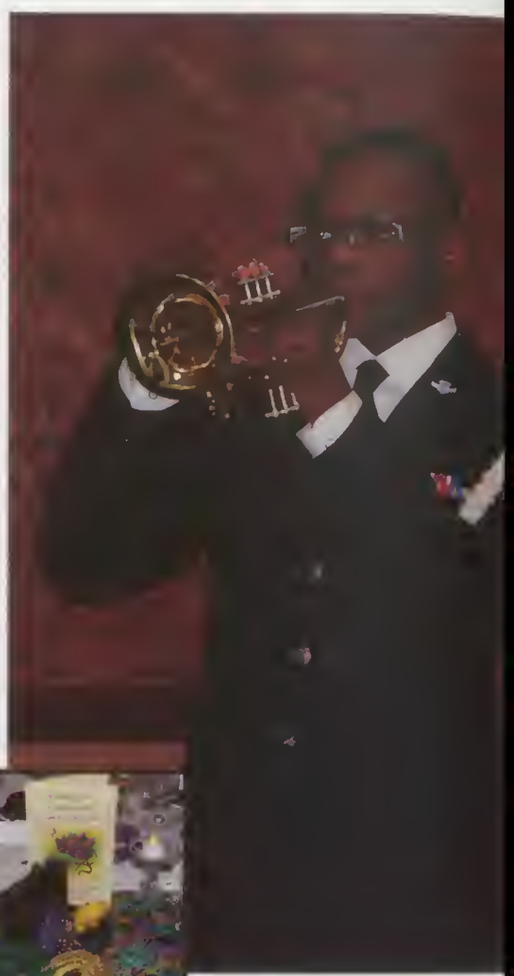
"Before the dance we did the girls' nails and hair, and watched a movie while eating pizza and other snacks," Special Education teacher Mrs. Barb Dlouhy said.

"It's a great time for our kids to get together and have fun while being safe and supervised," Ms. Carol Von Behren said. "The Inclusion dance is the most rewarding event that the FCCLA hosts."

Arranging the table for soldiers who have died in service to the country is Senior Gorett Goult. "While setting the table I was kind of frightened because I was scared and nervous that I was going to mess up" Goult said. Inspired by an old friend to join ROTC Gault now has future plans at Lincoln Tech. "For those who plan to join ROTC I recommend that you make the best out of it" Goult added. Insets are the finished place setting for the soldiers and the decorations for the tables.



Before dinner is served at the annual Military Ball Sophomore Malcolm Pitts plays taps. "I was thinking don't mess up because it was a very emotional moment" Pitts said. In the background, teacher Mr James Simon played the echo. Pitts is ranked 2nd Lieutenant. After high school, Pitts plans to join the Marines. "I like going to drill competitions and making friends" Pitts said



Dancing with Junior Jillian Sondefur. Junior Jocelyn Recio enjoys her night at the Military Ball. "It was fun. It was the best one we've had since I've been in ROTC" Recio said. Recio has been in ROTC for three years and is now a cadet major

As emcee of the Military Ball, Senior Greg Brousseau introduced guests and moved the program along "ROTC helps make me a better person and it prepares me for life," Brousseau said. Brousseau will join the ROTC at Indiana University in Bloomington in the fall. He plans to become a military pilot

BUILDING BETTER CITIZENS

Throughout the year, ROTC stays active by participating in community service, drill competitions and get-togethers.

"Every year we set a goal of how much community service we should complete. This year our goal was approximately 2,000 hours and we definitely completed that much or more," Senior Gregory Brousseau said.

ROTC helped clean up Broadway, assisted Hickory Ridge Apartment dwellers after a fire and participated in a clean-up project in the dunes.

When the group had fun nights they would stay after school and play all different kinds of sports and games or have a movie night.

Being the leaders, the top six, also called the corp, were Senior Talia Constant, Senior Garett Gault, Junior Jocelyn Recio, Junior Amber Clay, Senior Gerardo Flores and Brousseau.

Constant was the Lt. Colonel, and she oversaw and communicated directly with the majors. As a major, Brousseau handled the money and organized community service.

"To get where I was this year, I participated in everything for three years, and last year I was an operations squadron commander," Constant said. AFJROTC members dress in uniform each Wednesday for the school day. Every Friday they workout and run in the fieldhouse.

"This year was definitely the best for my high school career because it had the most people in the class and it was more relaxed being my senior year," Constant said.

The program is finishing its eighth year at MHS. It has more than doubled its size, up from 62 in the inaugural year to 152 during the 2011-12 school year. For 2012-13, more than 200 students are enrolled.

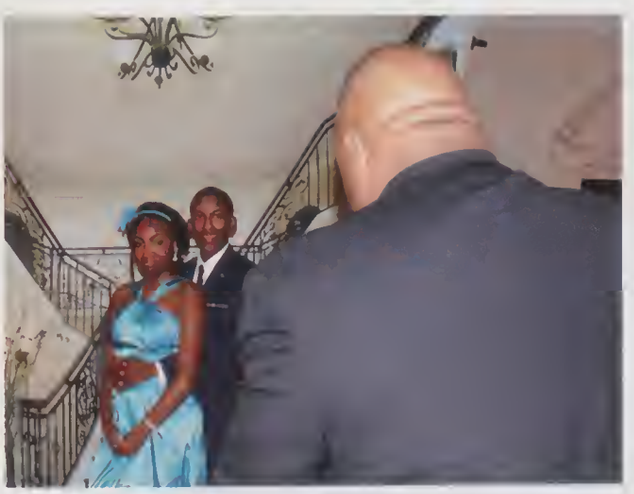
Maj. Guy Ramey and SSgt. Dan Wrasman have been involved with the program since its inception.

"Our mission for the Air Force Jr. ROTC," Major Ramey said, "is to building better citizens for America."

PRACTICE AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Leading the Armed Drill Team during an after school practice are Sophomore Marcus Boss. Junior James Schilling and Junior Jocelyn Recio. "I have been in ROTC for three years now and I am now ranked 2nd lieutenant," Schilling said. Schilling believes that the best part of ROTC is the focus on discipline and morals. "We practice for drill about three times a week or more," Schilling added. Overseeing the practice is SSgt. Don Wrosmon.

On a visit to St. Michael's School in Schererville where the Flag Corp presented the colors for Veteran's Day, Maj. Guy Romey teaches the students how to properly fold the flag. "We showed them how to raise the flag each morning and then retire the colors at night," Maj. Ramey said.



At the Military Ball, Sophomore Shyvan Williams and his date, Sophomore Whitney Wright, pose for a formal picture. The ball is an annual event held at a local venue. One of the highlights of the evening is the presentation of the seniors in the AFJROTC program.

REVUE

MUSICIANS, COMEDIANS, RAPPERS ENTERTAIN AUDIENCE DURING ANNUAL EVENT

Organizers of the 2012 Revue once again have claimed success for this ongoing tradition at Merrillville High School.

This showcase of the school's talent saw 37 acts, including several performers, the Jazz Band and choral students.

All the performers took the stage over the course of two nights in February. Guitar players, poets, singers, and drummers entertained.

A little more than $1000 was raised for the Drama Department. And together with "Dancing with the Teachers," the department is hopeful for next year.

"Both are going to be bigger and better next year," Drama Director Mr. Steve Elser said.

Junior Maciel Haynes worked family stories into his comedy act this year.

"He talks about his cousin," Mr. Elser said, "but he thinks his cousin isn't very bright."

"He has a kind of Bill Cosby delivery," Mr. Elser said. "People can relate because everyone has people in families that do weird things."

Senior Brandon Neal, who recited a poem called, 'Good Guys/Bad Guys' said, "Why have a gift of talent and not share it if you have the chance."

Junior Steven Reed, who performed at the Revue for the first time said, "If there is any advice that I could give to new people of the Revue, I would tell them to try and help everyone, and go on stage and have fun."

Others were repeat performers. Seniors Kandice Nicholson and Taylor Carter both sang, and Junior Hannah Bailey reprised her unique performance, singing and playing the ukulele.

Mr. Elser, the director of the Revue said, "The amount of talent that we saw was incredible, and the turnout was bigger than last year."

At the end of the show Mr. Steve Elser takes the stage to thank the audience for their attendance. "Every year I close the show by saying, 'You hear so much about what's wrong with teenagers these days, but here is what's right with them. That line always gets a good reaction from the crowd" Mr. Elser said. He has directed three Revues while working at the high school.

Performing in sync with Seniors Brandon Wright and Adrian Weaver, Senior Kandice Nicholson sings her favorite song "Love on Top" from Beyonce's album, "4." "Brandon and Adrian are great back up singers. We're all together in choir so making up the choreography for the show was very easy," Nicholson said. After three days of rehearsing and preparing, Nicholson thinks that their performance went very well.

Reciting the lines of his poem "Be Who I Are," Saphomore Trey Vonn Washington explores stereotypes in society. "There is never a limit of things to do. My opportunities are endless," Washington said regarding his poetry. Although he is new to writing Washington likes to experiment with different styles in the genre of poetry.

Combining his singing and dancing skills Senior Aaron Bennett performs his own song about love and heartbreak called "Skip." Bennett has been dancing since preschool and has learned to include singing into his routine. "My advice to young singers is to never have a one-track mind. Life is a playlist not just a single song," Bennett said.

While Senior Erik White sings "Swim Good" by Frank Ocean, Senior Nikka Sadural plays the guitar as they perform a medley of well-known hip-hop songs. Sadural and White have been working together for over a year. "I've never performed with Erik in front of a crowd like this, but it was an awesome experience," Sadural said.

As he looks into the audience Senior Brandon Neal focuses on conveying the message of his poem "Secrets," which expresses the negativity in the music industry. "Certain lines seem to bring a lot of energy from the crowd," Neal said. He has been writing poetry and music since first grade but has just recently became serious about his passion.

MORD

Once the crowning ceremony was completed the Prom Court Juniors Emma Bice Emma Harper Kara Phillips, Amy Aponte Joseph Cowser Khari Reed and Matthew Warren pose for a picture. "It was really exciting when I found out I made the Prom Court. It was cool that the teachers felt I deserved a big opportunity," Bice said Reed campaigned by telling people to vote for him, while Warren voted for Cowser. "I was happy to be nominated, because it is the coolest thing you can win in high school" Reed said.

As she is crowned by the 2011 Prom Queen Senior Belia Mercado, Junior Amy Aponte accepts the crown with a smile on her face. "I was overwhelmed with excitement because my boyfriend Junior Joseph Cowser won too, so it turned out perfect for the both of us," Aponte said She did not do anything to win peoples' votes. "If you're going to vote for me, you are no matter what I do," Aponte added She rated Prom a ten, and said she had a great night for her first time ever at Prom and cannot wait until next year.

After being announced as the new Prom King Junior Joseph Cowser leans over to accept the crown from 2011 Prom King Senior Abraham Garcia. Cowser's reaction when he won was, "I hope Amy wins!" Cowser describes Prom as unforgettable. "The experience was nice. It couldn't get much better since me and my girlfriend won," Cowser said After Prom, Cowser and Junior Amy Aponte went to the Cheesecake Factory and then Six Flags the next day

MOONLIGHT BY PARIS

The Class of 2012 was more than excited about Prom this year. Roughly 540 students attended the "Moonlight by Paris" themed Prom at the Avalon Manor May 4, 2012.

The Prom Court is selected by the teachers, and students vote for the queen and king when buying their ticket for the dance.

The 2012 Prom Court consisted of Juniors Amy Aponte, Emma Bice, Emma Harper, Kara Phillips, Joseph Cowser, Khari Reed, Michael Reed and Matthew Warren.

Prom Queen was awarded to Amy Aponte, and the Prom King was Joseph Cowser.

"I would have had an awesome time regardless if I won or not, but winning Prom queen was definitely the icing on the cake," Aponte said.

While many students decided to go to restaurants in Chicago after the dance, others enjoyed local fare.

Six Flags and Wisconsin Dells were popular destinations for the rest of the weekend.

"After Prom we went to the Cheesecake Factory, but the rest of the weekend I had to work," Senior Rudolph Sanchez IV said.

In addition to choosing the music that was played during the dance, students were also involved with assigning colors for the big event.

"This was one of the best turnouts," 2012 Prom sponsor Mrs. Maryetta Petras said. "We had more students this year. We sold 40 more tickets than last year."

With her date Senior Justin Koenemonn, Senior Reginio Torres dances to a slow song. "This was both our first time going, and afterwards we went to Olive Garden for dinner" Torres said. Torres said she had an awesome time at Prom because a lot of her friends were there, everyone looked nice and there was no drama. "The worst part of Prom weekend was at Six Flags when we got stuck at the Superman ride for 40 minutes" Torres added.

Standing in line and waiting to walk through the Grand March, Senior Chazz Roberts links arms with his date Senior Shaxovier Droyton. "The best part of Prom was being in the limo with my friends and going downtown to take pictures" Roberts said. Roberts said he had an interesting time seeing his old friends that graduated last year.

On the dance floor, Senior Dai John Thames dances with his date Senior Ashley Hall-Relf. "I had fun at Prom with Ashley. She is a pretty girl I will always like" Thames said. After Prom, Thames and Hall-Relf went to dinner at Grand Lux and had a great rest of the evening. "I was happy all night because she was happy about going her first time" Thames added.

BEYOND THE SWEAT

After a free throw attempt Senior Christina Brown (23) and Freshman Victoria Gaines (15) acknowledge their teammate Senior Raveen Murray (14) at the line. "I loved all of the laughs with the team and the team bonding at Coach Johnston's house," Murray said. She has been playing basketball since the age of four. This team become the first in school history to finish the regular season undefeated.

In a game against Michigan City Sophomore Adrianne Marquez (16) focuses on advancing the ball up the field. "Our team had better chemistry and we just worked better as a team," Marquez said. She has won Most Valuable Player both her freshman and sophomore years, as the girls' soccer team had their best record since 2002.

Pursued by Lake Central's Fredrick McGee (38) Junior Dylan Collins gives him a stiff arm to try to move past his tackle. "'Man Down' by Slim Dunkin was playing in my head motivating me throughout the game" Collins said. Collins transferred at the beginning of the school year. The Pirates won the hard-fought game 30-24 but later fell to Crown Point in the sectional championship.

Football

MVP
Dar
Pepa

Leadership
Kourtney
Berry

Most Improved
Cleveland
Lomax

Mr. Zip
Rodney
Mitchell

Most Valuable Skill Player
William
Isabell

Most Valuable Lineman
Paul
Carey

Beyond the touchdowns

Starting off their season with two early losses to Warren Central and Andrean, the football team had to turn things around quickly.

"I expected to win the first games instead of losing them and starting the season out so bad," Junior quarterback Jake Raspopovich said.

Team effort and cooperation worked together, and after the win against rival Crown Point, the team's season turned around. By the end of the regular season, the team shared the Duneland Athletic Conference Champion title with Lake Central.

"We went far as a team. We came together, and that is what makes a team strong," Senior wide receiver and defensive back William Isabell said.

The team was challenged to discover new players that would step up to the critical leadership positions. Several of the seniors became the new leaders.

"It was hard to take the responsibility of becoming the new team leaders because we were used to being the underclassmen for so long," Senior running back Darryl Peppers said.

As the team anticipated the Homecoming game against LaPorte, hard work and commitment enabled them to win.

"I was excited to be a senior and win our last Homecoming game," Senior offensive and defensive lineman Paul Carey said.

In the post-season, the team beat Lake Central and Chesterton for the second time in the season, beating the Indians 30-24 in the first game and the Trojans 48-45 in an overtime thriller. They lost to Crown Point in the sectional final 42-21.

In the end zone

64-3
2
2

Top: In the game against Portage Senior Darryl Peppers (44) drives past the Portage defense to advance down the field. The Pirates beat the conference rival 35-21. Most of the players on the team listen to music before the game as a pre-game ritual but Isabell didn't like to wear anything under his shoulder pads. Peppers said. He had a team high of 3 touchdowns and 120 rushing yards.
Middle: During the regular season game against Andrean Junior Matthew Warren (3) attempts to kick a field goal. Warren scored 37 of 42 extra points and 7 of 11 field goals this season. Every time before a home game as the players head on and watch a video clip to help us focus, Warren said.
Bottom: As teammates push off the Portage defensive players, Junior Jacob Raspopovich (9) searches for a receiver to pass the ball to. The team suffered a loss of the score of 7-6. "My advice for younger players is to go out and work hard for the season, run up the field on one and Raspopovich rushed 55 yards this season.

Boys' Soccer

MVP
Luis Alfonso Sanchez

Leadership
Austin Jamerson

Sportsmanship
Nicholas Enghor[illegible]

Most Improved
John Costakis

Beyond the footwork

The boys' soccer team had a rough season, but with teamwork being their main effort, they persevered through every practice and game.

"Our team was good, but I still believe we could have done better," Senior Peter Berlanga said.

Although they hoped to advance past the first round of sectionals, the team lost 6-0 to Crown Point, who went on to win the state title in Class 2A.

"I was really confident about the game, but I guess we did not give it our all," Senior Moises Perez said.

For the first time, two players shared the duties inside the net.

"This is the first year to have two varsity goalies," Head Coach Brian Past said. "Usually, there is one senior, but this year we had Junior Jordan Diaz and Freshman Bradley Brack."

With the loss of only a couple varsity seniors this year, many players are excited to become the leaders next season.

"It is a big role to show younger players what to do and what not to do, but I am ready for the challenge," Junior Erick Acosta said.

Making the goals

Portage	L	3-2
Andrean	L	2-1
LaPorte	L	4-1
Kankakee Valley	T	2-2
Chesterton	L	8-1
Hoosier Cup		
East Central	L	4-1
N. Lawrence	T	2-2
Jennings Co.	T	1-1
Valparaiso	L	4-1
Munster	L	5-0
Michigan City	L	2-0
Hobart	W	2-0
Crown Point	L	7-2
West Lafayette	L	1-0
Lafayette Jeff	W	2-0
Lake Central	L	6-1
Fort Wayne	L	9-1
Sectional		
Crown Point	L	6-0

TOP: Trying to escape the Chestertan defender, Junior Miguel Lagunas (8) looks to advance the ball up the field. "Even though the scoreboards did not show it, I think our team had a good season and I'm excited for next year," Lagunas said. In the conference game, the Pirates fell to the Trojans 8-1. MIDDLE: With his eyes on his opponent, Senior defender Abraham Garcia (3) kneels the ball. Garcia gives advice to future team members. "Get along as a team and continue to develop chemistry to be successful."

BOTTOM: Pursued by Chestertan's Colin Ringas (5), Junior midfielder Luisalfonso Sanchez (10) makes sure he maintains control of the ball. Sanchez had two goals and four assists for the season. "I try my best in every game. We try to play as a team," Sanchez said.

Varsity
Coach Brian Past
Front row: John [illegible] Erick Acosta, Bradley Brack, Miguel Lagunas, Abraham Garcia, Jorge Gutierrez, Jacob Pardus. Second row: Emilio Hernandez, Alex Murga, Jacob Stys, Luisalfonso Sanchez, Keith Yoder, Moises Perez, Abraham Garcia. Back row: Coach Jeff Fairbairn, Coach Past, Nicholas Enghofer, Emmanuel Calvillo, Austin Jamersan, Andrew Oams, Peter Berlanga, Coach Rick Hurey, Coach Brad Daniel.

Junior Varsity
Coach Rick Hurey
Front row: Jeremiah Jones, Joseph Jackson, Alexander Begalo, Alex Bianca, Fernanda Perez, Jacob Pardus, Ernesta Lopez, Alfredo Nino, Joshua Janes. Second row: Gregary Vega Jr., Ryan Soto, Arnold Sanchez, Andres Santiago, Michael Chabes, Andres Carrillo, David Rodriguez, Christopher Rodriguez, Gabriel Carbajal. Back row: Coach Jeff Fairbairn, Coach Past, Andy Murga, Vincent Carralez, Jamal Duke, Jacob Carey, Jase Ganzalez, Coach Rick Hurey, Coach Brad Daniel.

Girls' Soccer

MVP
Adrienne Marquez

Leadership
Natalia Ooms

Sportsmanship
Daniella [illegible]

Most Improved
Shaquita Dillard

Beyond the corner kicks

Early in the season, the girls' soccer team set goals to win more games and work more in the basic areas. Both goals were met as the team had their best season since 2002 with a record of 6-10-1.

"It is really great that we improved," Junior forward Melissa Costakis said. She led the team with seven goals.

The four captains were Juniors Natalia Ooms, Brittney Brack, Amy Aponte and Sophomore Adrianne Marquez, who was named MVP for the second straight year.

"This year, the team was more experienced and everyone stepped up," Coach Ben Daniel said.

Coach Daniel is in his fourth year as head coach.

"We did so great and more than I could have ever wished for my last year," Senior midfielder Danielle Abel said.

The team hung up their uniforms for the last time after a loss to Kankakee Valley in sectionals. However, Coach Daniel was very proud of all that they had accomplished this season.

"This is the best team that I've had since I've been a coach," he said.

Back of the net

[illegible]	4-2
[illegible]	3-
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
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[illegible]	[illegible]

TOP: Focused on the ball, Junior midfielder Lacey Richards (22) readies to strike the ball for the free kick against Highland. The Pirates suffered a loss to the Trojans 6-0 in the non-conference game. MIDDLE: Running past Michigan City's Brianna Myhand (10) Senior midfielder Danielle Abel (11) kicks the ball in an attempt to score. "Senior night was fun because it was really muddy but I was glad we won. It felt like everyone gave their all for us Abel said. BOTTOM: In the game against Michigan City Junior defender Brittney Brack (14) extends her leg after kicking the ball. Brack was one of the four captains on the team this year.

Varsity
Coach Ben Daniel
[illegible] Marquez. Second row: Melissa Costakis, Lacey Richards, Katy Guzek, Hannah [illegible]on, Danielle Abel. Back row: Assistant Coach Vikky Verduzco, Natalia Ooms, Alexandra Damoras, Coach Daniel, Nakel McClinton, Brittney Brack, Assistant Coach Jason Kendera.

Junior Varsity
Coach Jason Kendera
Front row: Morgan Bonick, Jordan Henner, Angelina Castillo, Marina Garcia, Hannah Smith. Second row: Carolina Henderson, Claret Diaz, Cassie Govert, Rachel Humes, Morgan Lesich, Amanda Jackson, Katy Guzek. Back row: Assistant Coach Vikky Verduzco, Victoria Frey, Kirsten Wiley, Coach Ben Daniel, Sara Hernandez, Chloe Stane, Coach Kendera.

VOLLEYBALL

MVP
MORGAN DICKEN

LEADERSHIP
CAITLIANA CARPENTER

SPORTSMANSHIP
MIRANDA HARRIS

MOST IMPROVED
VICTORIA GAINES

Beyond the digs

The volleyball team saw progress this year from players putting in effort and keeping their heads held high.

"Our team made a goal of being over .500, which means we would win half of our games and tournaments," Senior libero LaQuana Carpenter said. "We also made a goal to beat Crown Point on senior night."

In order to pursue their team goals, they practiced every day of the season and conditioned more during the off-season. Dedication and hard work were vital to the team's success.

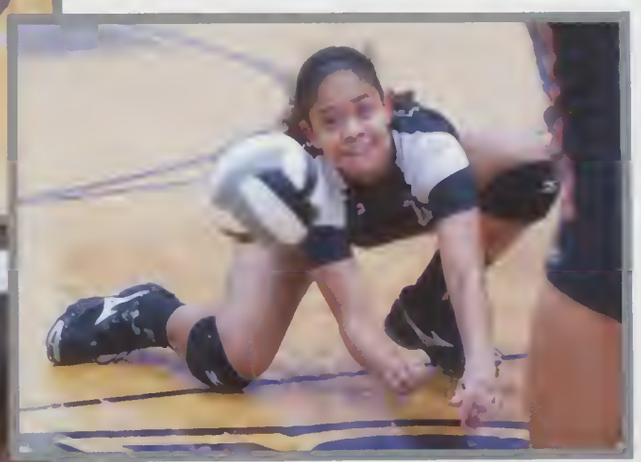
"Volleyball is a tough sport mentally," Head Varsity Coach Luke Starkey said. "Matches are long and have no 30-second breaks, which makes winning hard. One play can totally shift the momentum of the game."

The team's record was not exactly what they wished to attain, but it was an improvement from last season.

"I have seen improvement from day one to where the team ended. People assume that since our record is low that we have not improved, but just as we have gotten better, so has everyone else," Coach Starkey said.

The two senior captains, Carpenter and Megan Dicken, said they were sad that this was their last season, but they had some great experiences and memories during their time on the team.

"Volleyball is what I look forward to the most and I am going to miss everything about it," Dicken said. "My advice to younger players is to give 100 percent effort at everything you do because it goes by so fast."



TOP. In the air. Senior Megan Dicken (4) focuses on the ball so she can successfully spike it into the opponent's court. "It's tiring when you play the entire game" Dicken said. "Your body gets tired, and it's mentally hard when you aren't winning." Dicken led the team with 231 kills, 492 total attacks, 128 digs and 97 total blocks. MIDDLE. Ready to dig the ball. Sophomore Myrandol Harris (7) moves her feet to get in position. "I feel we have had a lot more potential this year and just need to use it" Harris said. "Keeping a positive attitude can make us play better." During the season, Harris had 392 total attacks, 137 kills and 19 solo blocks.

BOTTOM. Complimenting Senior Megan Dicken (4) on her kill Senior libero LaQuana Carpenter (2) helps the team stay positive. "Dicken just got an awesome kill and I was saying chick chick boom," Carpenter said. Throughout the volleyball season, Carpenter said she improved parts of her game. "I did become

Under the net

Griffith	L	3-0
Lowell	L	3-0
New Prairie	L	2-0
South Bend Clay	W	2-0
West Lafayette	L	2-0
Calumet Christian	L	2-0
Andrean	L	3-0
Portage	W	3-2
Michigan City	L	3-0
Valparaiso	L	3-1
Calumet Christian	L	2-0
Griffith	L	2-0
North Judson	L	2-0
Marton	W	2-0
LaPorte	L	3-0
Lake Central	L	3-0
Chesterton	L	3-1
Crown Point	L	3-0
Wheeler	W	3-2
Portage	L	3-2
Michigan City	L	3-0
Lowell	L	2-1
Portage	W	2-0
South Bend St. Joseph	L	2-0
Plymouth	L	2-0
Valparaiso	L	3-0
LaPorte	L	3-0
Bishop Noll	W	3-0
Lake Central	L	3-0
Hanover Central	W	3-2
Chesterton	L	3-1
Crown Point	L	3-0
Sectional	L	3-0

Varsity
Coach: Luke Starkey
Front row: Trisha Smith, Janae West, Selena Diaz, Amanda Banashak, Christina Brown, LaQuana Carpenter, Ashley Hansbury. Back row: Coach Storkey, Patricia Spikes, Megan Dicken, Victoria Gaines, Andrea Mathis, Myrandol Harris, Coach Heidi Hammond.

Junior Varsity
Coach: Christina Gehlhausen
Front row: JaKwonna Bittle, Evan Anguiano, Janae West, A'Leah Scott, Jordyn Smith. Back row: Jaz Talley, Brittany Mulligan, Coach Gehlhausen, Riana Todd, Samantha Lee.

Boys' Tennis

MVP

Leadership

Sportsmanship

Most Improved

Beyond all the racket

Ending the 2011 regular tennis season with a record of 5-13, the team advanced into the sectional final, something the team had not done in three years.

"I was very happy when we beat the Hobart Brickies in sectionals because the past two years we lost to them. It was nice to finally beat them," Coach Kyle Prow said.

The team beat Hobart in the first round, 3-2, and beat Griffith in the championship, 4-1. The team then advanced into regionals, where they faced Munster, who had a 17-1 record. They lost, 4-1.

Senior Leonard Mathews advanced to individual sectionals, but lost.

"I definitely did not end my senior year the way I wanted to, but there are more opportunities," Mathews said.

The season record does not reflect how close some matches were and how hard the team played.

"Many times, we needed one or two points to win the meet, but we just could not fight through to get those points," Senior Mansoor Arifee said.

"The three matches we lost went into third sets," Arifee said. "We had split sets and had the potential to win, but couldn't finish the way we hoped."

The team will lose six seniors to graduation.

Arifee advised young players, "Even though you are losing a lot of seniors, still go out there and play hard. Make goals and achieve them to the best you can."

Over the net

	4
	3-
	4-
	4-
	3-2
	2
	4th

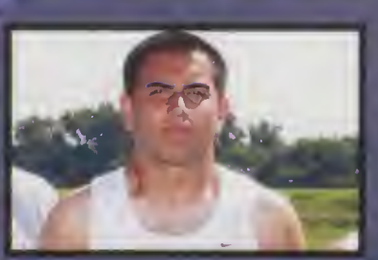
Boys Tennis
Coach Name Simon
Front row: Nygel Jackson, Dylan Crane, Robert Taylor, Garrett Cour..., Leonard Mathews II
Second row: Alexander Swierc, Mansoor Arifee, Michael Spicknall, Tyler Shockey, Joseph Brady, Ryan Neligan. Back row: Coach Carlton Hoyles, Micah Burgstahler, Ronald Mayersky Jr., Coach Simon, Kenneth Walsh, Luqmann Ruth, Coach Kyle Praw.

TOP: ...haking hands before the match are number two doubles players Senior Mansoor Arifee and Senior Tyler Shockey with each other. "I wanted to be a leader on the team. I tried my best and achieved that goal," Arifee, the 2011 Team Leadership Award winner said. Arifee and Senior Luqmann Ruth earned an honorable mention in the 2011 Academic All-State team. MIDDLE: Waiting for the serve, number one doubles player Sophomore Nygel Jackson keeps his eye on the ball. "This year I leveled at my partner and my skills," Jackson said. "The team will lose six seniors next season. Losing that many seniors will definitely hurt us next season but if we work harder we can overcome," Jackson said. BOTTOM: Ready for the ball, number one singles player Senior Leonard Mathews ... uses his forehand to complete his hit. "This season my aggressiveness and serve improved a lot but my bad days held me back," Mathews said. "In four years, Mathews was undefeated in the Duneland Athletic Conference. He made the First Team All-State his senior year after earning honorable mention his freshmen year and second team honors his sophomore and junior years.

Boys' Cross Country

MVP
Tyler Gray

Leadership
Conor Hill



Sportsmanship
Nicholas Delgado

Most Improved
Tyler Ehlke

Beyond the miles

As the boys' cross country season began, the team's goal was to do their best.

"I wanted all the kids to get better every day and every meet," Coach Michael Hoffman said.

With the loss of six of their top seven runners, they were going to have to work hard.

Training started after the 2010 season ended.

During practice, on average, they run 10 miles, but their longest run was 13 miles.

"I think everyone improved and everyone got faster," Coach Hoffman said.

With no seniors, the team looked to Sophomores Tyler Gray and Conor Hill to pace the runners.

"A couple of us had to take more control of the team," Hill said. "We felt like it was up to us."

The team conditioned every day with an occasional workout and long runs this past summer.

"Everyone improved a whole two minutes," Hill said.

At the Crown Point Sectional on October 11, the team placed 7th out of 12 teams.

"They ran well for an inexperienced team," Hoffman said.

The highlight of the season was the Highland Invite.

"I set a new personal record and the rest of the team did well, too," Gray said.

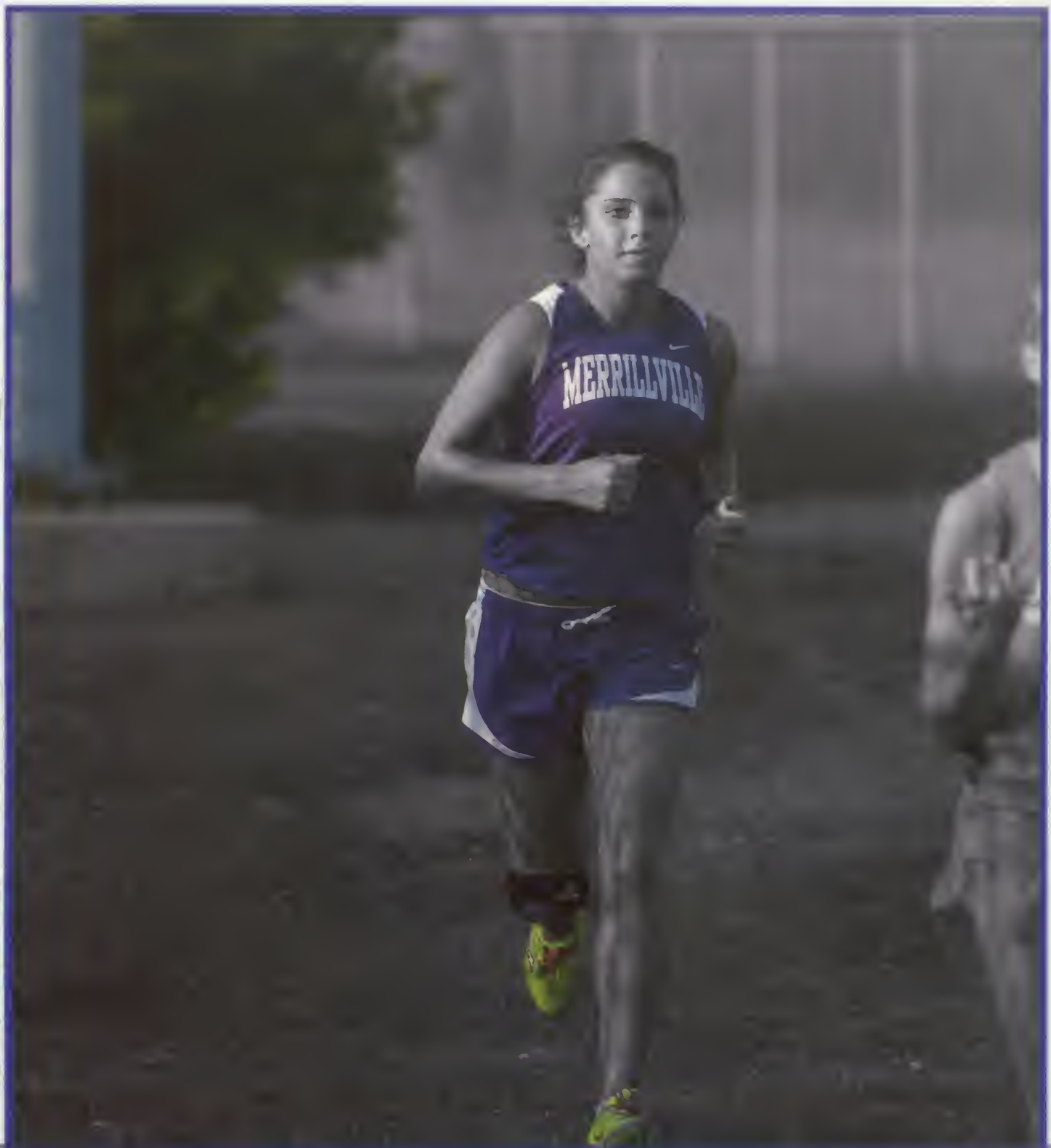
Pace the runners

Gavit	9th	229
Portage	L	50-15
Michigan City	L	32-23
Lake Central	L	47-16
Rensselaer	2nd	
LaPorte	L	50-15
Valparaiso	L	50-15
New Prairie	9th	
Chesterton	L	49-15
Crown Point	L	50-15
Highland	8th	
DAC	8th	
Sectional	7th	

TOP: Sophomores Byron Taylor and Marcus Jones run together for the last leg of the race. Marcus and Byron stayed together the whole race to keep pace and maintain with each other. Taylor said. Both runners have been running since freshman year and plan to continue. *MIDDLE:* Before a meet Sophomores Tyler Gray, Byron Taylor, Cameron Boone, Isaiah Broden and Marcus Jones stand with the rest of the team and discuss strategy as they prepare to start the race. *BOTTOM:* Advancing closer to the lead pack Sophomore Conor Hill tries to stay focused. Hill has been running since his freshman year and he has improved his time by two minutes. He ran at the sectional tournament for the first time this year. Hill said he raced harder and got with the lead group instead of sitting and waiting, Hill said.

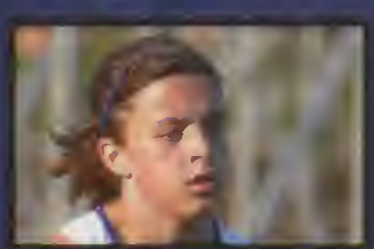
Boys Cross Country
Coach: Michael Hoffman
Front row: Brandon Hurson, Isaiah Broden, Michael Johnson, Kirk Myricks, Cameron Boone. Back row: Byron Taylor, Tyler Gray, Robert Jackson, Coach Hoffman, Nicholas Delgado, Conor Hill, Eriss Gilliom.

Girls' Cross Country



MVP

Leadership



Sportsmanship

Most Improved

Beyond the finish line

With the top four runners returning from the previous season, the girls' cross country team ran to gain consistency, as well as to win.

"Our biggest challenge was getting the players to run together as a team. We had a lot of new members this year, and I looked for the more experienced players to help out with the inexperience we were facing," Coach Aaron Crawn said.

The team ran with "ease" at the sectional meet, placing fourth with 95 points, behind Crown Point, Andrean and Hobart.

Advancing to the regional meet, the team placed eighth with Junior Kara Phillips placing 15th, the only runner to advance to semi-state.

"I knew we would make it out of sectionals, and they were capable of making it to semi-state," Coach Crawn said.

Coach Crawn said Phillips was the vocal leader on the team.

"We got a lot of new freshmen this year, and our top runners helped the younger players grow into bigger roles," Phillips said.

Racing ahead

45
28

TOP: [illegible] pass[illegible] competition as she races to the finish line [illegible] the team at the Crown Point Sectional at Lemon Lake Park, where she ran the race in 20:58 and came in seventh. MIDDLE: Standing at the starting line, the team awaits the beginning of the race against Valparaiso and LaPorte. Getting ready for races takes a lot of mental preparation, 70 percent mental and 30 percent physical, Junior Kara Phillips said. Phillips advanced to the semi-state meet at New Prairie, where she ran the race in 20:12 and came in 53rd place. BOTTOM: While keeping up her pace, Junior Megan Vinson stays focused during the tri-meet. The tri-meet against Valparaiso and LaPorte was one of our toughest meets, Vinson said. Vinson, the team's third runner, ran the sectional race in 22:21 and ran the regional in 22:49

Coach Aaron Crawn

Front row: Khandi King, Megan Vinson, Cyerra Sims, Ashley Benkert. Back row: Kara Phillips, Victoria Collins, Coach Crawn, Kayleigh Champion, Nichole Anderson.

Girls' Golf

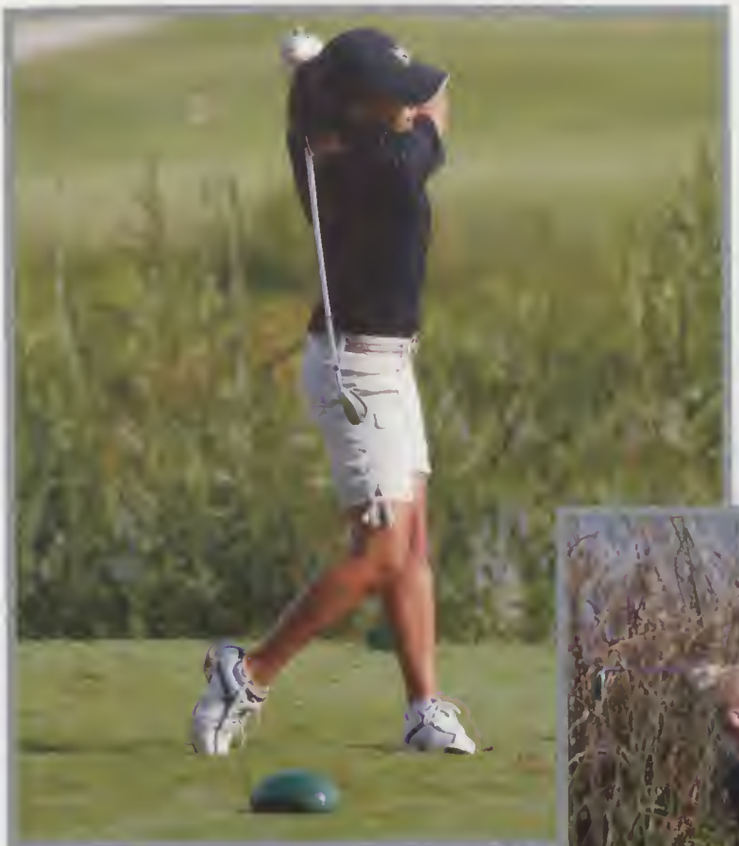
MVP
Maggie Connolly

Leadership
Jeanette Burgage

Sportsmanship
Lauren Carniello

Most Improved
Marissa Taylor

Beyond the birdies



With new additions to the roster and many senior players leading the team, the girls' golf team looked forward to a more promising season.

"This is my second year coaching, and I am starting to get the hang of how it works," Coach Patti Tubbs said. "I look forward to every season now and bring new ideas that help the team improve."

Sophomore Maggie Connelly averaged a team low of 46 throughout the season and advanced to the regional tournament as an individual with the third medalist low score.

"I practiced a lot during the off-season and it paid off. I like to view this season as successful, and next year I will be aiming for state," Connelly said.

The team improved from last year, adding more wins to their record. They finished the season with a record of four wins and 15 losses.

"Practice is really the key. A lot of us stepped into bigger roles this season and we were rewarded," Senior Jeanette Burbage said. "My advice is for the younger players to keep working, and not to ever give up."

Off the tee

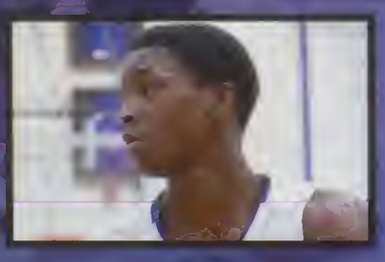
Boone Grove	214-214	W
Rensselaer	212-190	L
N. Newton	220-217	L
Bishop Noll	310-285	W
Valparaiso	228-169	L
Lake Central	228-184	L
Portage	219-205	L
Munster	226-213	L
LaPorte	235-194	L
Hobart	224-217	L
Chesterton	223-172	L
Mich. City	212-214	W
Crown Point	228-183	L
Andrean	216-233	W
Griffith	229-242	W
Sectional	450	5th

Coach Patti Tubbs
Front row: Sabra Ali, Lauren Carnicelo, Brianna Lane, Marissa Taylor, Mariam Ali; back row: Latonia Harris, Jeanette Burbage, Coach Tubbs, Maggie Connelly, Nateka Mathews

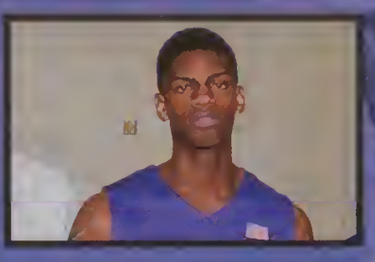
TOP: During her follow through motion Senior Lauren Carnicelo looks to see where the ball will land. "When I hit the ball I'm just hoping that it goes as far as I want it to go," she said. Carnicelo, the sportsmanship award winner ended her season averaging a 50 on nine holes with her lowest being against Rensselaer with a 47. MIDDLE: Just after hitting a shot from the fairway Senior Jeanette Burboge watches the ball. She finished her high school golf career with a 53 average and the leadership award. "My team could have been better but I will miss Nateka most and our long bus rides listening to Trey Songz the whole way," Burbage said. BOTTOM: After making contact with her tee shot Junior Marissa Taylor watches the ball until it lands. "This was an overall good season for us. I'm happy with the progress we made," Taylor said. After working to shave an average eight strokes off her game from last yeor Taylor said she plans to play golf ogain her seniar yeor ond wark to achieve a better record.

Boys' Basketball

MVP
Doran Talley



Leadership
[illegible] Hewitt



Best Mental Attitude
Edward Seay

Most Improved
John Mosley

Beyond the comebacks

With new Coach T.J. Lux, the boys' basketball team faced challenges throughout the season.

"It's been challenging dealing with consistency and the injury to Senior Edward Seay tearing his ACL," Coach Lux said. "Losing Seay hurts due to him being a great player and just his personality, but this year has also been very enjoyable as well."

Throughout the season, the team continued working hard to make up for the loss of the seven seniors from the previous year.

"We had to completely revamp the varsity team, but so far it has been a growing process," Coach Lux said. "Our guys are learning how to play at the varsity level. We've seen some guys improve and it's fascinating to watch, and seeing guys play at their level of capability is rewarding as a coach."

To make this season more successful, the boys continued working to improve their strengths.

"My strengths from this season were my size. I'm tall and strong, so my strength is my strength," Senior John Mosley said.

The team defeated host Michigan City for the sectional title, and even won the nickname, "Comeback Kids," after three come-from-behind wins.

Advancing to regionals, the team lost to Elkhart Memorial in the first round by a score of 81-63.

TOP: Drop stepping a lay-up, Junior Jeloni Pruitt (42) dodges the defenders to make the basket. "Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work," Pruitt said. He said his family and coach encourage him to be a better player. RIGHT: Hoping to get the assist, Junior Brian Jenkins (20) drives to the middle of the lane. "The work ethic is probably the hardest part about being on varsity because Lux has us run a lot," Jenkins said. BOTTOM: With every intention of defeating the Portage Indians, Senior John Mosley (54) goes up for a power lay-up. "I am a self motivator. I do this for my enjoyment," Mosley said. Without the seniors from last year, Mosley and the rest of the seniors had the responsibility to police the team, especially with the loss of Senior Edward Seay, who suffered a season-ending ACL tear.

Off the glass

64

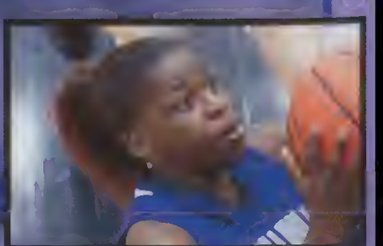
Varsity
Coach T. Lux
Front row: Bruce Brown, Frank Jefferson, Kevin Wilkerson, Brian Jenkins, Bradley Brayfield
Second row: Jalen Wilbert, Isaiah Wilson, Christopher Davis, Jacob Rospopovich, Lamard Owens. Back row: Coach Cliff Hughes, Zaran Talley Jr., John Mosley, Coach Lux, Edward Seay, Jeloni Pruitt, Coach Dave Herring.

Girls' Basketball

MVP
[illegible] Jurra

Leadership
Christina Brown

Sportsmanship
Jasmyne Miller



Most Improved
Dariyan Morris

Beyond the perfection

After getting the rebound among Valparaiso's Katherine Berning (21) and Amber Klein (23), Senior Christina Brown (23) goes up for a lay-up. "The hardest part about basketball is adjusting to fatigue and learning how to just play through it," Brown said

TOP: As Sophomore Audrianna Downs (22) sets a pick on Lowell's Sarah Wietbrock (11), Freshman Victoria Gaines (15) drives to the basket to score. "Lowell is hard because they have a lot of tall people, but we use our speed to make our offense" Gaines said. RIGHT: In order to avoid the Elkhart Memorial's Khadijah Moore, Junior Dariyan Morris (10) readies to put up a shot fake. "Beating Elkhart meant a lot from last year and losing to them," Morris said. "It was a big game and we've kind of created a rivalry"

The girls' basketball team earned the first undefeated regular season record in school history, the first team in the Calumet region since 2003 to accomplish this feat.

"Everyone was on the same page with defense, and defense wins games," Senior Raveen Murray said. "From summer, we could tell that we were going to have a good season."

Along the way, they faced challenging teams like conference foes, Crown Point and Michigan City, and even managed to pull out a win against Elkhart Memorial, who was ranked number four in the state at that time.

"The win over Elkhart jumpstarted our season," Coach Amy Govert said. Coach Govert is in her seventh year as head coach. "It was a good test for us. It helped us gain confidence and from there our season took off."

This season, Victoria Gaines, who is Murray's cousin, was the only freshman on varsity.

"It's a lot of pressure and it's difficult to get respect sometimes," Gaines said. "The seniors are like older sisters that always tell you what to do, but I know they have my back."

The team had great chemistry, which also attributed to their success. They were very close, noting that the team bonding at Coach Darcie Johnston's house and moments in the locker room were their favorite parts of the season off the court.

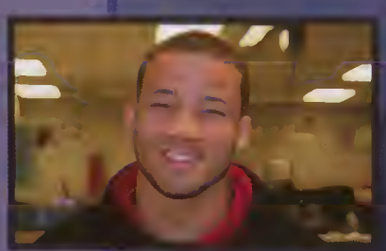
Despite the history-making season, the Pirates fell to Michigan City in the second round of sectionals.

For the record books

Highland	W	81-40
Andrean	W	65-27
Valparaiso	W	68-53
Portage	W	58-50
Chesterton	W	71-27
Elkhart Memorial	W	57-42
LaPorte	W	57-30
Michigan City	W	76-71
Lake Central	W	66-48
Munster	W	59-24
Crown Point	W	64-56
Valparaiso	W	62-40
Portage	W	63-40
Lowell	W	63-42
LaPorte	W	47-27
Hobart	W	50-34
Lake Central	W	78-42
Chesterton	W	63-42
Michigan City	W	74-57
Crown Point	W	63-55
Sectionals		
Valparaiso	W	59-36
Michigan City	L	70-56

Varsity Girls Basketball
Coach Amy Govert
Front row: Brianna Thomason, Dariyan Morris, Raveen Murray, Audrianna Downs, Anjelica Peppers. Second row: Christina Brown, Myranda Harris, Amber Sturdivant, Jasmyne Miller. Back row: Coach Darcie Johnston, Darian Patton, Victoria Gaines, Kacey Cole, Coach Govert

WRESTLING



MVP

KOURTNEY [illegible]

LEADERSHIP

ROBERT [illegible]

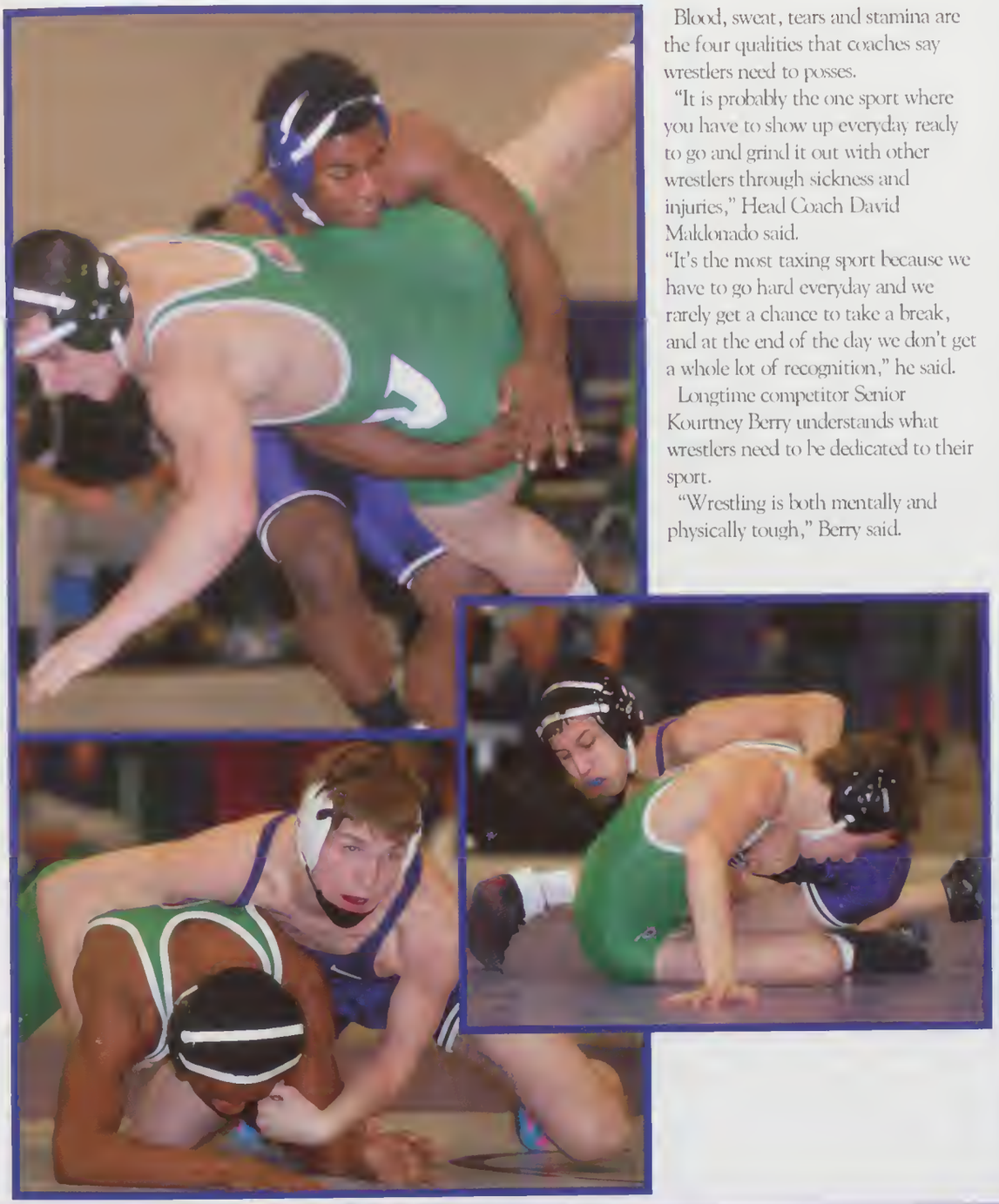
SPORTSMANSHIP

[illegible]RRYL PEPPERS

MOST IMPROVED

ADAM GARCIA

Beyond the takedowns



Blood, sweat, tears and stamina are the four qualities that coaches say wrestlers need to posses.

"It is probably the one sport where you have to show up everyday ready to go and grind it out with other wrestlers through sickness and injuries," Head Coach David Maldonado said.

"It's the most taxing sport because we have to go hard everyday and we rarely get a chance to take a break, and at the end of the day we don't get a whole lot of recognition," he said.

Longtime competitor Senior Kourtney Berry understands what wrestlers need to be dedicated to their sport.

"Wrestling is both mentally and physically tough," Berry said.

Connecting with new teammates was a challenge that Freshman Robert Steveson embraced.

"The hardest part for me was adjusting to the older kids and working around them," Steveson said.

With practice in the morning and after school, the wrestling team had one major goal they wanted to accomplish: advancing to the team state tournament.

While the team fell short of their goal, seven wrestlers advanced to the state individual tournament.

Berry placed second in the 195-pound weight class to become a state runner-up, while Steveson placed fifth at 160, Junior Adam Garcia placed fourth at 120, and Senior Darryl Peppers placed eighth at 170.

Getting the pins

TOP: [illegible] *pinned his opponent in the [illegible]-pound weight class. Senior Darryl Peppers [illegible] up to compete [illegible] a parallel to win [illegible] the mat and go home with a victory. "I just wanted to hurry up and get it over with," Peppers said. Ending his senior season with a [illegible] record, Peppers advanced to state where he placed eighth. "I was very proud of myself making it because it was my senior year, but I was nervous as well," Peppers said. *RIGHT:* Wrestling his competitor in the 105-pound weight class, Junior Michael Garcia used a strategy to win his match against Laparas. "Making the switch to the new weight class was easier than it looked," Garcia said. His season on Garcia advanced to the state finals, but he lost in the first round. *BOTTOM:* With a bloody mouth, Senior Zachary Sandefur concentrates on staying on top of his opponent at 152-pounds to bring him down on the mat. "I was holding on tight but I was head to bring him down because he wasn't falling," Sandefur said.

Boys' Swimming & Diving

MVP
Dane Ezernack

Leadership
Nicholas Badali

Sportsmanship
David Perkins

Most Improved
Andrew Ooms

Beyond the Speedos

The boys' swimming and diving team dove into the season with new members and fresh hopes of bettering themselves. Comparing their performance in the past years, the team strived to improve individual tactics and motivate one another.

Senior Captain Nicholas Badali held high hopes for the boys.

"I wanted the team to make it to state, but it's looking rough, and I also want to make it to finals in sectionals," he said.

The team came across both wins and defeats during the season, yet individuals met or even surpassed goals they wished to accomplish.

Senior Dane Ezernack, pushed himself to higher expectations.

"You have to go mental. Sometimes your body screams to stop, but you have to push yourself to limits you didn't realize possible," he said.

Ezernack's goals were to drop his times during races. Other swimmers and divers, like Freshman Garrett Ferrell used alternate plans.

"I like to stretch during practice and I meditate when I can," he said.

Assistant Coach Sarah Stallings states the practices are worthwhile in preparing the team.

"It takes a while to get the boys into shape because it takes so much to get in shape," she said.

Racing the clock

Portage	L	52-13
Rensselaer	L	77-10
Lake Central	L	134-51
Highland	L	132-53
Hobart	W	102-60
Crown Point	L	132-50.5
Griffith	W	107-72
Kankakee Valley	L	108-78
Lowell	W	111-67
Valparaiso	L	139-47
Munster	L	140-46
Michigan City	L	110-71
LaPorte	W	122-50
Wheeler	W	106-70
Chesterton	L	143-43
DAC	8th	101.1/2
Sectionals	5th	156

TOP: Cutting the water, Marshall Pardus performs a double back dive. "No one influenced me to be a swimmer. It was just a new sport I wanted to try," Pardus said. He has been on the swim team for three years and said his season could have been better. "I had goals but did not have time to meet them," he said. RIGHT: Keeping up with his competitors, Junior Jordan Reaves swims the 100 fly. "Nobody really influenced me to swim. I've been swimming since I was 5 years old," Reaves said. This is Reaves' third year swimming at VHS. "I love the spirit that the team gives me during a race," he said. BOTTOM: Coming up for a breath of air, Freshman Andrew Oams swims the free style. "Even though this was my first year, I'm proud of my swimming ability," he said. Oams said people in his life keep him motivated. "The two people that inspire me are my sister Natalia and my mom."

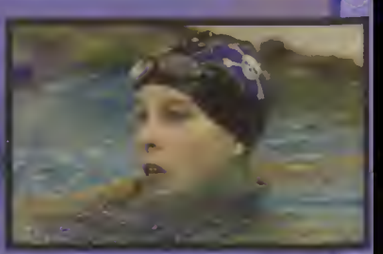
Boys Swimming and Diving
Coach Ladd Downham
Front row: Jacob Pardus, Aaron Fuller, Jeremiah Deyarmin, Darshawn Woodard, David Osorio. Second row: Gregory Vega, Brandon Oliver, Dwayne Fitzpatrick, Christopher Ha, Christopher Myszur, Brand Wolak. Third row: Coach Josh Harvath, Coach Jeremy Boyer, Assistant Coach Dynonta Robinson, Nicholas Badali, Javaun Wills, Christian Brunski, David Perkins, Dane Ezernack, Coach Downham, Coach Sara Stallings. Back row: Garrett Ferrell, Markus Kluga, Alan Garcia, Randall Bultema, Jordan Reaves, Andrew Oams, Adam Keri, Kennard Turner.

Girls' Swimming & Diving

MVP
Kennedy Wilck

Leadership
Rachel Baran

Sportsmanship
Regina Torres



Most Improved
Kasie Antich

Beyond the chlorine

This season's swim team was all about team bonding, having pasta parties, making shirts and the tradition of TPing members of the boys' swim team houses. In the process of all of these activities, the girls became really close.

"We really become a family when it comes to everything that we have to share, like shampoo, caps, goggles and swimsuits," Sophomore Kennedy Wilck said.

Aside from all of the fun and games, the team also stayed focused in the water, working hard everyday at practices.

"At meets, we placed well considering our competition that we always had to put up with," Wilck said. "We had a lot of best times this year and people were constantly improving."

Senior Mackenzie Milon and Sophomores Maggie Connelly, Jennifer Meloy, Caitlinn Caddick and Wilck advanced individually to the sectional finals, while the 400 free relay consisting of Milon, Connelly, Caddick, and Wilck advanced as well. Juniors Kara Phillips and Emma Bice also advanced as divers.

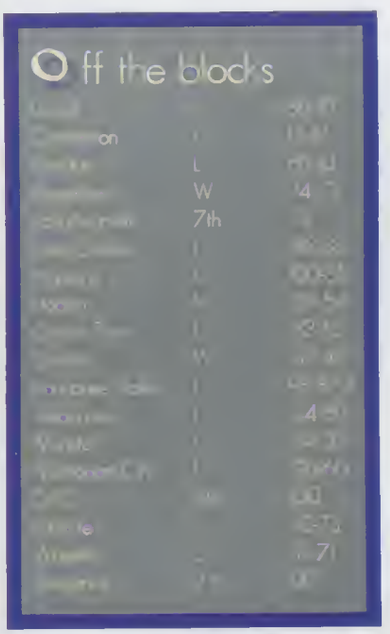
Wilck had the highest individual finish, placing 11th in both the 200 freestyle and 100 butterfly and the relay placed sixth. Phillips and Bice both made the podium, making Merrillville one of the only schools to have two divers place at sectionals.

"It takes a lot of mental ability and I had a mental block in the beginning, but I reached all of my goals by the end of the season," Phillips said.

A new summer program will open up so that returning swimmers can keep practicing for next season.

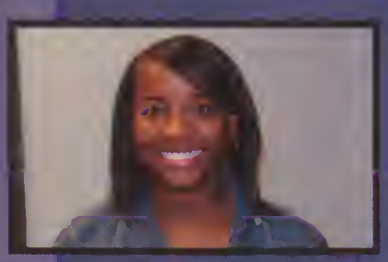
TOP: While swimming the breaststroke, Junior Rachel Baron reaches up to catch the competition. "I wanted to make it to the second day of sectionals and to drop my time and I accomplished both of these" Baron said. She has been swimming since her seventh grade year. RIGHT: Competing in a race, Junior Miranda Vega comes up for air during the fly. Since being pressured by friends to join her sophomore year, she has most improved on her speed. "I just wanted to beat the person next to me," Vega said.

BOTTOM. Racing the clock, Junior Destiny Yoder swims the freestyle race. "My mind was set on focusing, finishing and getting the best time" she said. Yoder has been swimming for three years. "I just got interested by playing around in the pool."



Girls Swimming and Diving Team
Coaches and Downham
Front row: Iman Smith, Janay [illegible], Rachel Baron, Samantha Keith, Kristen Rude, Emma Bice, Regina Torres. Second row: Haley Hansen, Deanna Kenzle, Nicole Anderson, Aerieyle Peterson, Alexandria Romanow, Kara Phillips. Assistant Coach Brandi Wolak, Assistant Coach Sara Stallings. Third row: Assistant Coach Josh Harvath, Assistant Coach Lauren Bower, Assistant Coach Dynunta Robinson, Breyonna Turner, Kennedy Wilck, Shelby Lee, Natalia Ooms, Danielle Woburn, Chloe Nelson, Caitlyn Caddick, Coach Downham. Back row: Ashley Simmons, Iman Shelby, Julian Sandefur, Miranda Vega, Maggie Connelly, Mackenzie Milon, Ha'Vonn Erskine, Kasie Antich, Jennifer Meloy.

Gymnastics



MVP
Mental Attitude
Taylor Woods

Leadership
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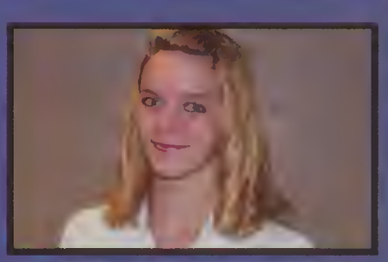


Most Improved
Kristina Goodman

Beyond the chalk

The Gymnastics Team had goals set on remaining injury free, keeping a positive mindset, and competing at the regional level as a team. The DAC contained five top-ten ranked teams in the state, including Merrillville.

"We stayed healthy through a lot of strengthening and conditioning," Junior Captain Hannah Lane said.

This year the team did not have any seniors, so Juniors Amy Aponte, Lauren Lamb and Lane had to fill in the captain spots.

"There were times when being a captain was difficult, but it was a great experience," Lamb said.

Although some may view the lack of seniors on a team as a setback, the gymnasts had a positive outlook on the situation.

"We don't have to worry about graduating seniors. All of our girls are coming back even stronger next year," Aponte said.

Sophomores Kristina Goodman and Taylor Woods complimented the junior leaders, not only in their abilities but also in their encouraging attitudes.

"After having a bad meet we would tell ourselves, 'Put this meet behind you. From this moment on we can only get better,'" Woods said.

The team had hopes of competing at the regional level, but they came up short, placing fourth at sectionals after state-ranked rival Chesterton.

"Although we fell short of reaching our goal, the experience and accomplishments of 2012 will solidify our ability to reach great potential in 2013," Head Coach Diane Roberts said.

What the judges say

Michigan City	W	102.675-99.75
Hobart	W	105.4-95.8
Lake Central	W	104.125-94.5
Ft. Wayne Concordia	4th	103.55
LaPorte	W	106.15-101.55
Pirate Pride Invite	2nd	106.55
Portage	L	111.425-106.225
Chesterton	L	106.85-106.15
Valparaiso	L	112.975-103.35
Crown Point	W	107.1-104.35
DAC	5th	103.525
Sectionals	4th	104.45

TOP: In the middle of her competition vault Junior Amy Aponte hits a perfect handstand in an attempt to score high for her team. "I love absolutely everything about gymnastics. As difficult as some of the skills may be to perform, I love the thrill that comes with this sport," Aponte said. Aponte's favorite event is beam where her season best was a 9.5. RIGHT: As teammates cheer her on, Freshman Morgan Harris performs a pose on the balance beam as part of her routine. "I plan on doing gymnastics my entire high school career because I have been doing it since I was little and it became a part of me" Harris said. Harris is also on the volleyball and tennis teams.

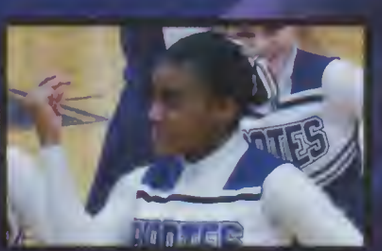
BOTTOM: "It's the complete opposite on uneven bars. I am always trying to finish with a solid bar pass. Work hard and compete like it's your last meet" beam is the most exciting event," Lamb said. Uneven bars was Lamb's best event. "This year was a lot different from last year. We improved a lot skill wise and I am just so proud of my teammates," Lamb said.

Coach Diane Roberts
Front Row: Jana Smith, Morgan Harris, Kristina Goodman, Bonnei Boyd. Second Row: Hannah Lane, Lauren Lamb, Amy Aponte, Taylor Woods. Third Row: Coach Roberts, Coach Nick Roberts

Cheerleading

MVP

Leadership



Sportsmanship

Most Improved

Beyond the stunts

Cheers, jumps, pompoms and big ribbons are what come to mind when thinking of cheerleaders, but there a lot more things that a cheerleader must posses in order to make up the pyramid of cheerleading.

"You must be really outgoing, confident and make sure you have enough endurance to survive the practices," Sophomore Whitney Reese said.

Cheerleaders say they are hard-working, athletic and dedicated, and they must able to hype up a team and a crowd.

"The hardest thing about cheerleading is being able to cheer for the team when they're losing," Senior Danae Baskin said.

With two new male cheerleaders, the team is able to add more advanced stunts to their routines.

"Having guys on the team just makes it feel more official," Sophomore Shawnay Lardydell said.

"It's weird but at the same time really fun," Sophomore Reginald Turner said.

With no competitions this year, the team still kept busy.

"We practice for an hour and 30 minutes and greet the other cheerleaders so we can get to know each other," Reese said.

TOP: During a boys varsity basketball game Sophomore Whitney Reese dances to one of their cheer routines. She said she tries to hit all of the right moves. "I was hoping everything went perfect and that all of my stunts would stick." Reese said ***RIGHT*** *With outspread arms and connected hands, Sophomore Shawnay Lardydell does the stunt "Paper Dolls" with her fellow teammates. "When I'm performing, I try not to think," she said. "I just make sure that I smile and hit every move." Lardydell won the MVP award this season.*

BOTTOM: While dancing to the school song Senior Jazmyn Thomas helps hype up the crowd. "I was counting down in my head" Thomas said. "I try to stay relaxed before and during a performance but afterwards, I'm exhausted" Thomas won the leadership award for the team this season.

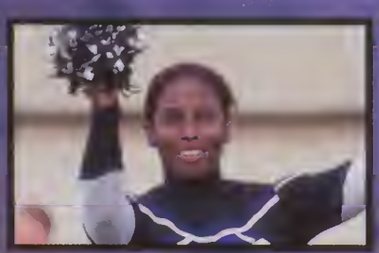
Varsity Cheerleaders
Coach: Kari Grover
Front row: Danielle Lucero, Jazmyn Thomas, Danae Baskin, Briana Robinson, Shawnay Lardydell, Tavia East, Jasmin Pollard, Briana Robinson. Back row: Shawnay Lardydell, Tavia East, Josmin McGee, Samantha Wolcott, Donae Baskin, Charizma Jackson, Jazmyn Thomas, Jourdain Rogers, Whitney Reese, Anjelica Peppers.

Varsity Cheerleader
Coach: Madeline Govert
Front row: Morgan Boyd, Kathryn Sarsfield. Second row: Serina Ford, Brittany Jewel. Back row: Khaila Sanchez, Lindsey McCoin, Patrice Young, Kuro Walker, Salena Pena

DANCE

MVP

LARISSA HARRIS



LEADERSHIP

DONI[illegible]

MOST DEDICATED

LESLIE EASTERLING

COACH'S 110% EFFORT

LAUREN KISE[illegible]

Beyond the rhinestones

Celebrating an overall success at the Munster competition, both teams pose for a picture with their trophies. This was the first competition that the hip hop dance was performed with the new boys' crew. "I was proud that we completed the dance without stopping. We worked really hard and it showed" crew member Robert Nelison said.

The legacy of the Merrillville Dance Team lived on as the 2011-2012 season began. With a huge experienced varsity, a strong JV and the addition of the boys' "hip hop crew" the team had many things to look forward to and anticipated for a great year.

"I can not wait for state. Just the thought of possibly having all three of our routines make it to state is so exciting," Junior Paula Akinrinade said.

The major change this year to the Dance Team was the creation of the hip hop crew. Six male dancers were added to the team to enhance the visuals of the hip hop dance.

The dance had a theme of girls vs. boys with a mixture of music to match.

"Last year there was a team that had boys and they won state. Seeing how they used their guys to disguise their girls' flaws upset me, so I wanted to add boys to do just the opposite," Coach Melissa Sickinger said.

"I wanted them to add to the girl's performance and not overpower them," Coach Sickinger said.

The three routines started the season with very high scores, hip hop having a score higher than that of last year's performance at state. Unanimously, the 2011/2012 jazz routine was everyone's favorite.

"Jazz is definitely my favorite routine. It gives me an amazing feeling when I am dancing at competitions. I can't wait to see how it progresses as the season goes on," Freshman Anna Feliciano said.

TOP: With a smile from ear to ear, Freshman Kali Stevens performs during a football season dance routine. "I believe performance is really important in a routine because you want to be believable and keep your audience interested" Stevens said. MIDDLE: Grouping together during the debut of the 2012 jazz routine varsity dancers reach out to their audience. "I get all my emotions from my heart. The things I feel mad about in life I put into the dance and perform it for the crowd," Sophomore Marshawna Kendrick said

ALWAYS DANCING

Marian Invitational	2nd pom
Munster Invitational	1st Jazz
	2nd Hip Hop
Chicagoland	5th Hip Hop
Dance Championship	6th Pom
Kahler Invitational	1st Jazz
	3rd Hip Hop
Lake Central	2nd Jazz
Dance Invitational	3rd Hip Hop
	4th Pom
North Regional	1st Jazz
	3rd Hip Hop
	4th Pom
State	6th Pom
	7th Hip Hop
	9th Jazz

Coach Melissa Sickinge
Front row: Alyssa Smith, Anna Feliciana, Alysso Minogue Brittani Hood Kali Stevens Paula Akinrinade, Larissa Horris, Morshawna Kendrick Back row Lauren Kiser Donneisha Owens, Erricka Brawn, Camisha Mitchell Belio Mercado, Leslie Easterling

Coach Jennifer-Stegemolle
Front row Vanessa Yanez Simone Barron Raven Tibbs Second row Christa Martin Noeemah White Ashley Armstrong Brianna Coraona-Arroyo Back row Leniyah Taylor Leona Wheeler Charity Gilkey Jamese Lewis Not Pictured Aaliyah Smith

Spring Sports

Boys' Track & Field

MVP
Austin Jamerson

Leadership
Joshua Haynes

Sportsmanship
Garrett Ferrell

Most Improved
Nathaniel Bride

Beyond the strides

In a year when younger athletes had to assume varsity roles, track and field coaches say they saw improvement by individuals in hurdles, distance, high jumps and pole vaulting.

"The team this year is very young," Head Coach Brian Past said. "We had many freshmen and sophomores step up and take the role of varsity that had great experience and that will help us in the 2013 season."

Varsity players continued to lead the team of younger athletes. After a third place finish in high jump at last year's state finals, Junior Austin Jamerson returned this year and placed second at the Crown Point Sectional.

In the 110 meter hurdles, Jamerson came in first.

"Austin came through as a triple threat," Coach Past said, "because in three events, he is tops in the region." Jamerson came in first at sectionals in the long jump as well.

New to the team this year was Freshman Terry Jackson. Jackson, Juniors Dylon Collins, Nathaniel Bride and Marcellus Joiner run the 4x1 relay that advanced to regionals.

Athletes advancing to the state meet were Collins, Jamerson, Senior Anthony Palm and Juniors Joshua Haynes. Collins was the only person to medal, placing 2nd in the 100 meter dash.

TOP: Reaching over the bar Junior Austin Jamerson competes in the high jump. "My role on the team is to be a leader and to help my teammates get as far as they can in the event we are in," Jamerson said. His personal bests are 6'7 1/2" for high jump 22' 2.5" for long jump and 14.49 seconds in hurdles. RIGHT: During shot put Junior Joshua Haynes uses his rotational technique "My role on the team is to be one of the best throwers" Haynes said Throughout his season Haynes improved his distance in the event by 7 feet

BOTTOM: Running in the rain, Junior Don Taylor Jr competes in a race against Crown Point. One of his main goals is to, "make it out of sectionals." Taylor practices about two to three hours for his events everyday except Sunday

Out of the blocks

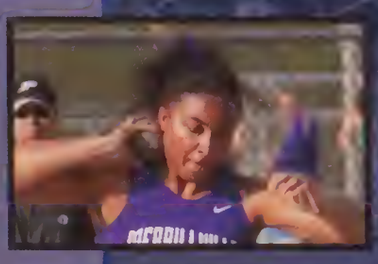
Indoor Meet	5th
Memorial R	2nd

Boys Track and Field

Coach Brian Past

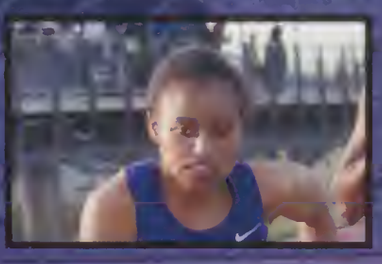
Front row Ronnie Gates Jr Ravon Turner Michael Johnson II Darryl Peppers Jorge Gutierrez Nathane Polezoes Daniel Johnson Jr. Adam Brodie Brandon Hurson Cameron Boone Marcellus Joiner Second row Conor Hall Jaden Foster Don Taylor Jr Trent Turner Jacob Styx Brian Jenkins Jr Bruce Thomas Terry Jackson Nathaniel Bride Tyler Gray Third row Keon Gibson Branden Hull Joshua Bey Jared Earwin Alejandro Perez Robert Taylor Zachary Sandefur Byron Taylor Maurice Swain Fourth row Joshua Haynes Jordan Diaz Payton Ash Reginald Turner Anthony Palm Caleb Pirtle William Isabell Dylon Collins Fifth row Jamal Duke Brendan Williams Collins Mbachu Jr Ricardo Martinez Austin Jamerson Devon Smith Jeffery Colby Corey Johnson Tristan Coghill Back row Coach Luis Lopez Coach Ben Daniel Coach Patrick Coffey Coach Past Coach Mike Hoffman Coach Aaron Crown Coach Jeff Fairbairn.

Girls' Track & Field



MVP
Nakel McClinton

Leadership
Alexandra Domoras



Sportsmanship
Cyerra Sims

Most Improved
Tamera Sulkes

Beyond the ribbons

BOTTOM: Receiving the baton from Senior Jazmyn Thomas Junior Anjelica Peppers begins her leg of the 4x100 meter relay. "I was hoping that I didn't mess up," Peppers said. The relay team won the DAC meet, edging out conference rival Lake Central.

TOP: Senior Alexandra Domoras attempts to clearn the bar without knocking it down during the DAC meet. Domoras, who set a personal best of 12 feet in pole vault suffered a major injury to her forearm during sectionals. RIGHT: While trying to beat the clock, Senior Jaleesa Holmes leaps over the 100 meter hurdles with long precise strides during the DAC meet. "I've got to beat the clock because time is my biggest competition," Holmes said. Holmes placed 8th at the state meet with a personal best record time of 14.84 seconds.

Expectations were high for this year's girls' track team. They had two main focuses: do well enough to be in the position to win meets and "one," meaning one of everything counts.

In the beginning, the team lived up to all of the hype. They won their second consecutive indoor Duneland Athletic Conference title, winning nine of the fifteen events. Continuing on, the season took a turn for the worse.

Juniors Victoria Collins and Briana Williams, a transfer from Munster who placed eighth in state in long jump last year, both suffered stress fractures that forced them to sit out the majority of the season.

In mid-April, Senior Brianna Thompson, who won the 400 meter dash at the indoor DAC meet, was in a car accident that resulted in broken ribs and a fractured back. The team all wore purple ribbons in their hair at every meet in Thompson's honor.

"After we found out what happened it pushed us to perform better for the fact that she would want us to," Senior pole vaulter Alexandra Domoras said.

A month later, however, Domoras faced a season-ending injury herself as she broke her left forearm while she was warming up for pole vault at sectionals.

Despite the injuries, the team tried to take down rival Lake Central throughout the post-season. While the Pirates came close but never won, they still advanced athletes to the state meet, including team MVP Senior Nakel McClinton in the shot put and discus and Junior Airrica Harper, a transfer from Highland, in the 100 and 200 meter dashes. The 4x100 meter relay team of Harper, Junior Anjelica Peppers and Seniors Jaleesa Holmes and Jazmyn Thomas placed fourth in state with a personal record time of 48.54 seconds.

Over the hurdles

DAC Indoor Meet	1st	147.5
Elkhart Memorial Relays	1st	
LaPorte	W	74-57
Vernon Hills Invite	4th	84
Chesterton	L	67-65
Portage	W	83-49
West Lafayette Relays	2nd	69
Lake Central	L	83-49
Valparaiso	W	70-62
Crown Point	W	69-63
Michigan City	W	102-21
DAC Meet	2nd	143
Sectionals	2nd	145
Regionals	2nd	70.5

Girl's Track & Field

Coach Jeff Fairbairn

Front row: Brianna Thompson, Taylar Worrell, Kara Phillips, Ayana Gray, Asionna Peterson, Danielle Abe, Caret Diaz, Anjelica Peppers. Second row: Dariah Norwood, Stephanie Samuels, Ashley Gray, Shermika Winston, Jermisa Williams, Victoria Collins, Whitney Reese, Briana Williams, ALeah Scott, Cyerra Sims. Third row: Shequida Dillard, Malika Sweeney, Hannah Dixon, Arrisa Allen, Asha Thompson, Aaliyah Costleberry, Jaleesa Holmes, Senobia Sanders, Kayleigh Champion, Ebony Harris. Fourth row: Tamera Jukes, Shawnece Williams, Joz Talley, Nakel McClinton, Jordan Stanley, Airrica Harper, Alexandra Domoras, Nikia Lewis, Elizabeth Neves. Back row: Coach Louis Lopez, Coach Patrick Coffey, Coach Ben Daniel, Coach Mike Hoffman, Coach Fairbairn, Coach Aaron Crawl, Coach Brian Post

Baseball

MVP
Aaron Dye

Leadership
Matthew Warren

Sportsmanship
Tyler Kephart

Most Improved
Ian Stacks

Beyond the bases

BOTTOM: Sliding into third, Junior Aaron Dye (3) makes it to the base safely after hitting a triple. "My favorite part about baseball is the hitting and running," Dye, an outfielder, said. With 91 at-bats, Dye's batting average was .429

TOP: Determined to get a player out, Junior Alexander Swierc (1) fields a ground ball and throws to first base. "I think we performed well as a team, even though our record doesn't show it," Swierc said. The infielder had 18 put-outs and 31 assists in the 115 innings he played this season. RIGHT: Watching for the ball, Junior John Burns IV (11) prepares to swing. "My favorite memory from the season was the game against Lake Central. A player on the other team thought he had a base hit, but I dove and caught the ball," Burns said. Burns has played baseball since he was nine years old.

Having the right mind set and playing the game right were two goals this year's baseball team wanted to accomplish. The Duneland Athletic Conference included three top state ranked teams, so the Pirates had to put up a fight in every game.

Because there were 14 newcomers, getting their new players to believe they were good enough to compete at the varsity level was a big obstacle for the coaches. However, with leaderships from both returning seniors and juniors, this task was accomplished.

"We tried to encourage the younger players in everything they did. They had to feel welcomed by the upperclassmen in order to play well," Senior Tyler Kepchar said.

Another major difficulty the team had to overcome this year involved pitching. Senior Ian Stacks, Juniors Tyler Scheive and Jonathan Feliciano and Sophomore Brandon Oliver all contributed on the pitcher's mound.

"Pitching is such an important part of baseball. We really needed to step up and replace what we lost last year," Head Coach Mark Schellinger said.

In preparation for the season, the players lifted weights and played on the field in the fall. During the winter, they conditioned four days a week before school.

"The conditioning that we did in the morning workouts was definitely tough at times, but it really did prepare us for the season," Junior Joseph Cowser said.

Heading for home

Hobart	L	1-0
Boone Grove	L	10-4
Washington Twp.	L	4-3
Munster	L	8-7
Griffith	W	5-2
Highland	W	3-2
Lowell	L	7-1
Valparaiso	L	13-0
Portage	L	9-4
Kankakee Valley	L	15-6
Lake Central	L	12-0
Crown Point	L	5-3
Morton	L	8-4
Michigan City	L	2-1
LaPorte	W	5-4
Chesterton	W	5-4
Rensselaer Central	L	4-3
Valparaiso	L	12-0
Portage	L	6-5
Lake Central	L	10-4
Crown Point	L	6-5
Michigan City	W	3-1
Wheeler	L	11-10
Bishop Noll	L	5-3
LaPorte	W	11-1
Chesterton	L	4-2
West Lafayette	L	8-5
Sectional		
Portage	L	14-3

Varsity Baseball

Coach: Mark Schellinger
Front row: Rudolph Sanchez, Aaron Dye, Tyler Kepchar, Brandon Oliver, Joseph Cowser. Second row: Tyler Scheive, Quentin Lacey-Blackwell, Anthony Griffin, Manager Bradley Brayfield, Ian Stacks, Matthew Warren, Alexander Swierc. Back row: Coach Schellinger, Joseph Cowser, Nathaniel Gilhon, John Burns IV, Jonathon Feliciano, Jose Corbado, Coach John Matkowski

SOFTBALL

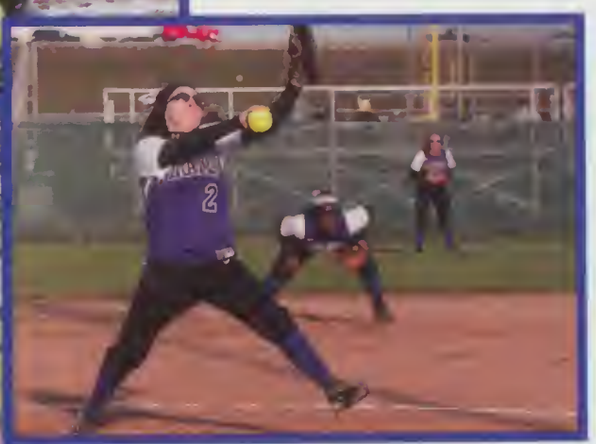
MVP
MERCEDES MCCLENDON

LEADERSHIP
ASHLEY HANSBURY

SPORTSMANSHIP
MEAGAN CLARKSON

MOST IMPROVED
NICHOLE ANDERSON

Beyond the dugouts



Players and coaches focused on improving fundamentals on the field and in the batter's box during this softball season. Despite a losing record, the team anticipates a better season next year.

"Our hitting has improved," Assistant Coach Amy Govert said. "We just needed to get more consistent and timely."

Players point to their relationships with each other as key.

"We're working better as a team and are actually more into the game," Junior Samantha Hernandez said.

Three different coaches have worked with the players over the past four years. The new head coach, Mr. Dave Lopez is a former Griffith High School teacher who tries to bring excitement to the game.

"He's more positive and more into the fundamentals of softball," Senior Amanda Banashak said.

Banashak led the team with the most put-outs and Senior Mercedes McClendon, led the team with a .411 batting average.

The team battled into an extra inning during their sectional game against Hobart.

"Mercedes made an excellent catch and supported everyone the whole game," Senior Mia Patikas said. "Jessica pitched really good, but a couple of the Hobart players hit the ball really well."

The game ended on a Hobart home run, but players are already looking forward to the 2013 season.

"The team learned to always keep our heads up," Patikas said, "and work on the fundamentals."

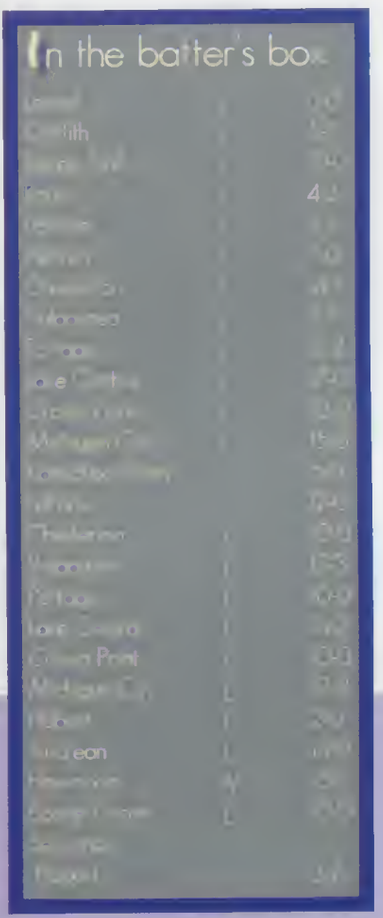
TOP: At third base during the softball team's game against Lowell Sophomore Ashley Hansbury (11) sets up to field a ground ball. Hansbury started playing softball when she was in 6th grade. "The new coaches this year have helped the whole team. We've all improved" Hansbury said. RIGHT: During the game against Lowell, Junior Jessica Vasquez (2) winds up to throw a pitch. Vasquez said she enjays "having to go out and face each batter not knowing where they'll hit the ball and trying not to walk them." Vasquez pitched a total of 20 games this season and had an earned run average of 9.00.

BOTTOM: Behind the plate with the umpire at her back, Senior Nichole Andersan (4) gets ready to catch a high outside pitch during the game against Chestertan. This seasan was Andersan's first time playing the catcher's positian. Andersan has been learning to play saftball since she was little but anly started playing an arganized teams when she was 11. "Saftball has always been a big port af my life and having it nat be such a big port is samething I'm gaing ta miss." Andersan stated

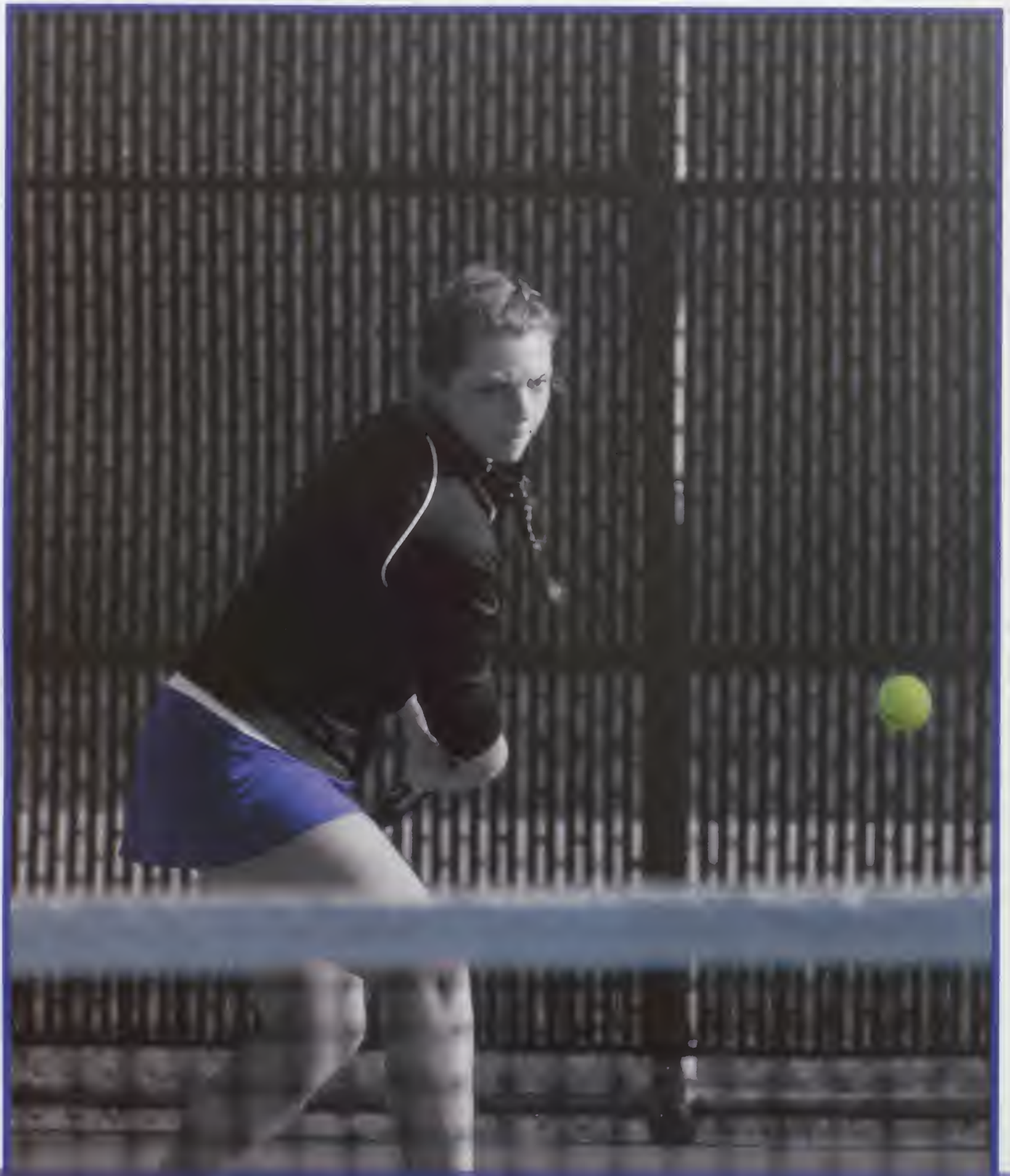
Varsity Softball

Coach Dave Lopez

Front row Meagan Clarkson Samantha Hernandez Mercedes McClendon Ashley Hansbury Lauren Bistrican Second row Nichole Andersan Selena Diaz Manager Jordan Buhse Erica Homeier Jessica Vasquez Back row Coach Lopez Amanda Banashak Julie Ross Mia Patikas Coach Amy Govert



Girls' Tennis



MVP

M[illegible]

Leadership

A[illegible]

Sportsmanship

Lauren Carniello

Most Improved

Tia Harris

Beyond the deuces

Bottom: Reaching for the ball, No. 2 Singles Junior Miranda Vega attempts to return the ball to her opponent. Vega's goals during preseason was to try to improve her game. "The hardest challenge this season was to try to become more consistent. I tried not to think negatively," Vega said. To prepare for the season, Vega practices with the boys' tennis team and plays in tournaments.

TOP: No. 2 Doubles Senior Lauren Carniello and Sophomore Conor Shea wait for the opponents to hit the ball back. "After each point, we would do a little handshake to stay motivated," Shea said. For sectionals, the team made good luck charms. "Before matches, I tell myself to do the best I can," Carniello said. RIGHT: In ready position, No. 1 Doubles Juniors Aliyah Williams and Tia Harris wait for a volley. Harris has been in tennis since sophomore year and has improved this year by moving up to varsity. "To improve my game, I go to summer camps and then conditioning during preseason," Harris said.

The 2012 girls' Tennis Team started the season off with a victory of defeating the MC Marquette 3-2.

"I look for athleticism and determination in a player. If they are determined to win no matter what then they will put forth the necessary time off-season to improve," Coach Kyle Prow said.

Every girl on the team attended winter off-season open hitting and conditioning to prepare mentally and physically before the season began.

The team played challenge matches at the beginning of the season to rank the girls' single and double abilities; from there the lineups were made.

"Our toughest team is not the best team in the area- Hobart. They are not better tennis players than we are, but have the mental advantage over us. We have lost to them the past three years. We plan to work on some things in practice that really applies the pressure on us so we can prepare for sectionals where we could possibly face Hobart," Coach Prow said.

The team played Hobart in sectionals, where they lost a tough battle with a score of 3-2.

Tennis is mostly a mental individual game for players but the girls' still have to work as a team.

"My favorite part of tennis is being with my team. We're close," Junior Miranda Vega said.

The mental swing of this sport sets it aside from any other.

"Tennis is an intense game. I'm always nervous. Every point is crucial," Senior Lauren Carniello said.

Point, Set, Match

M.C. Marquette	W	3-2
Highland	W	5-0
Lowell	L	4-1
Boone Groove	W	5-0
Hobart	L	4-1
Michigan City	L	5-0
Plymouth Valley	L	3rd
LaPorte	L	5-0
Hammond Morton	W	5-0
Valparaiso	L	5-0
Portage	L	3-2
Wheeler	W	4-1
Chesterton	L	5-0
Kankakee Valley	W	3-2
Lake Central	L	3-2
Crown Point	L	5-0
Sectionals		
Hobart	L	3-2

Girls Tennis

Coach: Kyle Prow

Front row: Mariana Cantu, Lauren Carniello, Allyssa Mihal, Conor Shea, Amber Downing, Kianna Reed, Morgan Lamb, Jayla Harvey, Cynthia Basu-Chavez, Zahra Arifee, Jasmine Gruchmo, Dayanna Arichavala. Second row: Janae West, Aliyah Williams, Morgan Harris, Megan Austin, Kenneay Nunn, Brittany Mulligan, Lauren Harding, Taylor Allen, Kamau Richardson, Caitlinn Caddick. Back row: Bianca Maldonado, Christa Flores, Jana Seide, Angelique Oyervides, Tia Harris, Coach Prow, Nadia Wright, Miranda Vega, Victoria Miller, Myranda Harris, Simone Graham

Boys' Golf

MVP
Naim Muhammad

Leadership
Mansoor Arifee

Sportsmanship
Mackenzie Pearson

Most Improved
Fard Muhammad

Beyond the swing

As they began daily practices in mid-March and their season in April, many challenges met the boys' golf team.

Weather is always a factor. "Weather tends to be the biggest challenge for boys' golf," Coach Patti Tubbs said. Coach Tubbs, a teacher at Clifford Pierce Middle School, is in her second year of coaching.

"It's a cold, windy and rainy season," Tubbs said.

Another challenge was experience. With 12 members on the team, 6 of the players had played the sport before, and 2 varsity players returned, Junior Naim Muhammad and Senior Mansoor Arifee.

They were role models for the younger players. Both Arifee and Muhammad dropped 15 strokes from their game.

Coach Tubbs said she is looking for "a golfer that is thinking about his current shot, how far to the hole, which club I use" and more.

"I look for someone who is a hard worker that really wants to improve his game," Coach Tubbs said. "Golf looks like a leisure sport, but students need to be thinking the whole time they are in a match."

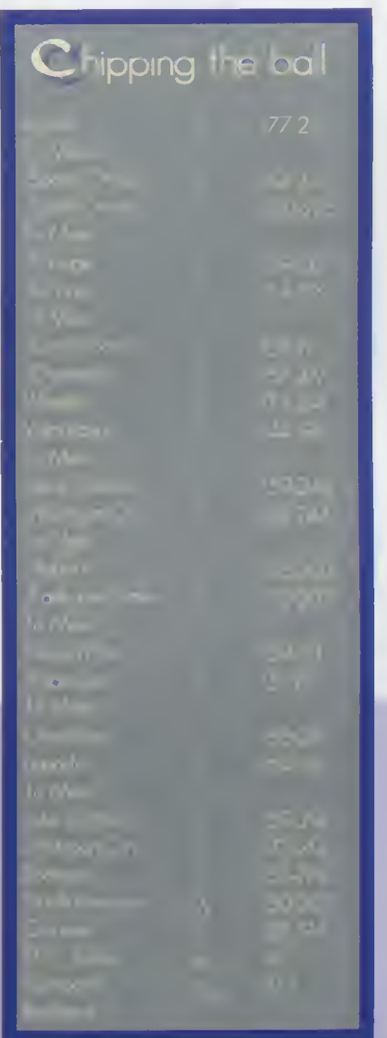
After this first chapter of the rebuilding stage, the boys' golf team looks forward to next season, hoping players with experience will return.

Like other sports, golf requires team efficiency as well as individual effort.

"Golf is an individual and a team sport, like gymnastics and wrestling, but it is unlike those two sports because you have to be skillful with a tool, the golf clubs," Coach Tubbs said.

Bottom: *With the follow through, Junior Kennord Turner moves his putter to finish his turn on green. "It's an intense game. It's not as easy as any other sport," Turner said. Turner has been golfing for five years. "Hitting in the sand is the hardest part," Turner said. Next year Turner hopes the team improves by practicing everyday as a team.*

TOP: *Chipping the ball. Sophomore Kyle Krause completes his strake. "I like golf because it's a big challenge" Krause said. During the season, Krause had his best score of 51 for 9 holes in the match against Valparaisa.* **RIGHT:** *Swinging his wood Senior Mansoor Arifee watches how far his ball travels off the tee. "The hardest part of golf is not getting frustrated because if you get mad you can easily mess up your score" Arifee said. Arifee has been golfing for two years. Arifee shot his lowest score of 46 at the Kankakee Valley Invite.*



Boys Golf

Coach Patti Tubbs

Front row Carlos Ta... Mack... Pearson Michae Robinson Destiny Felix Jaylen Hatfield Second row Christopher McClain Kennard Turner Kyle Krause Timothy Shelton Jr. Ronald Wood Mansoor Arifee Back row Robert Nielsen Naim Muhammad Coach Tubbs Jeremy Baldwin Bruce Brown

Football

Coach: Zac Wells

Front row: Erral White Nichalas Hayes, Darryl Peppers, Shareef Cauley, Rannie Giles, Michael Martin; Secand row: Shane Brausseau, Darnell Robinson, Joseph Smith, Denzel Young, Tany Carter Dante Pickett Michael Jones Robert Nielsen Brian Kelly Bruce Thamas, Gregory Brausseau, Darrin Funches, Antan West Eric Davis, Craig Burns, Shakir Andersan; Third row: Teannah Taylar Jordan Buhse Carlysle Larsan, Coach A J. Grezenko, Coach Dennis Hamiltan, Coach Jarrett Jardan, Coach Brian Parker Coach Sean Kinsey, Coach Jacob Stafford Coach Rob Bedwell Coach Wells Coach Dave Byard Coach Bill Crosby Coach Joe Atria, Coach Joe O'Connell Coach Mark Schellinger Coach Jeff Eatan, Mr Sean Hudson, Makayla Webster Simone Partis, Fourth raw: Lauren Lamb Bradley Brayfield, Bruce Brown Mante Hamlet TreVon Harris, Eugene Dykes, Travone Narman, Richard Neely Dominic Alderson, Aaron Dye, Tyrie Fuller Bryant Isabell, Brandon Oliver, Niles Bell, Jordan Turley, Aaran Sanders, Michael Nicksan, Logan Hubbard, Rachel Galante, Fifth raw: Carlas Jenkins, Joel Martin, Brian Jenkins, Tyler Scheive Jaylen Harris, Delaun Kirk, Christian Pearsan Kevin Wilkerson, Eric DeLuna Cartez Sims, William Isabell, Trevor Leanhardt, Dylon Collins Jared Earwin, Quintin Lacey-Blackwell, Alex Perez Michael Carpenter Brandon Baldwin, Malcolm Lindsay; Sixth row: Kourtney Berry Tristan Coghill, Caleb Pirtle, Brian Walker Adam Sherwinski, Jose Martinez Anthany Disco, Jacob Raspopovich John Burns Rodney Mitchell Adrian Rabinsan, Daniel Jankulaski, Thamas Scolaro, Ian Stacks, Tyler Kepchar Anthany Palm, Jordan Jahnsan Eric Gatewood Back Raw: Michael Dicken Matthew Warren, Brandon Spencer Julian Neal Oyinmiebi Deidigha Malcolm Danley Louis Williams Jonathan Feliciana, Frank Webster Matthew Sabczak Abdul-Raqib Cax Roman Salas, Paul Carey, Jeffery Colby Billy Grant Joseph Cowser, Ryan Neal, Cleveland Lamax Breuon Magee

Freshman Football

Coach: Rab Bedwell

Front raw: Damen Banks, Sergia Mendoza, Miguel Tapia, Robert Drayton, Thamas Butler Deon Hughes, Andrew Merced, Brian Sales, Eein Harman, Isaiah Pearsan, Brandon McCallister, Jonathan Arce, Justin Velez Daniel Johnsan: Second row: Samuel Watkins, Orlando Lopez, Jahnnie Rivera, Jeremy Herrod, Karl Riley Nicholas Racine Daniel Eldridge Kamau Richardsan, Zachary Bramberg, Terrance Grayson, Dewrell Hapsan, Asia Barran, Jamal Latt Third row: Evin Kennedy Josue Martinez, Colton Maynard Rashaad Williams, Coach Brian Parker Coach Dave Byard Coach Bedwell, Coach AJ Grezenka, Pierre Scatt Daylen Bryant Terry Jackson, Jonathan Rabinsan; Back row. Paytan Ash, Brandan Quanstrom, Rayquan Hamptan, Trenton Brawn, Joseph Turley Jonathan Tucker Janathan Streck Jardan Baldwin, Jarius Perry Jeffery Payne, Anthany Green.

Freshman Valleyball

Coach: Patrick Coffey

Front row: Alexis Barron, Jaylo Harvey, Cassidy Koontz, Jenna Jurczyk, Natavia Lenoir, Cynthia Bosu-Chavez. Back row: Jermiso Williams, Morgan Horris, Kennedy Nunn, Coach Coffey, Simone Young, Angelica Navorro, Tommye Nelson.

Girls' Freshman Basketball

Coach: Josh Tudor

Front row: Temiro Scott, Alexia Rainey, Nicole Peterson, Savannah Jovas. Second row: Ayana Allen, Jaylo Horvey, Janae West, Danielette Dailey, Joleesa Doss. Back row: Jaz Tolley, Jordan Stanley, Coach Tudor, Voltee Smith, Dakyla Moore

Boys Freshmen Basketball "A" Team

Coach: Bob Owen

Front row: Jeremy Brown, Terrance Grayson, Ford Muhammed, Kirk Myrics, Timothy Bryant, TreoShan Sams. Back row: Coach Owen, George Duncon, Devin Martin, Jonathan Streck, Benjomin Jackson, Kwame Knight, Coach Michael Holden.

Bays' Freshman Basketball "B" Team

Coach: Michael Holden

Front row: Justin Anderson, Jonathon Robinson, Desmand Thomas, Kamau Richardson, Domen Banks. Back row: Coach Bob Owen, Teonte Wright, Xayvion Williomson, Trenton Brown, Coach Holden.

Boys' Junior Varsity Basketball

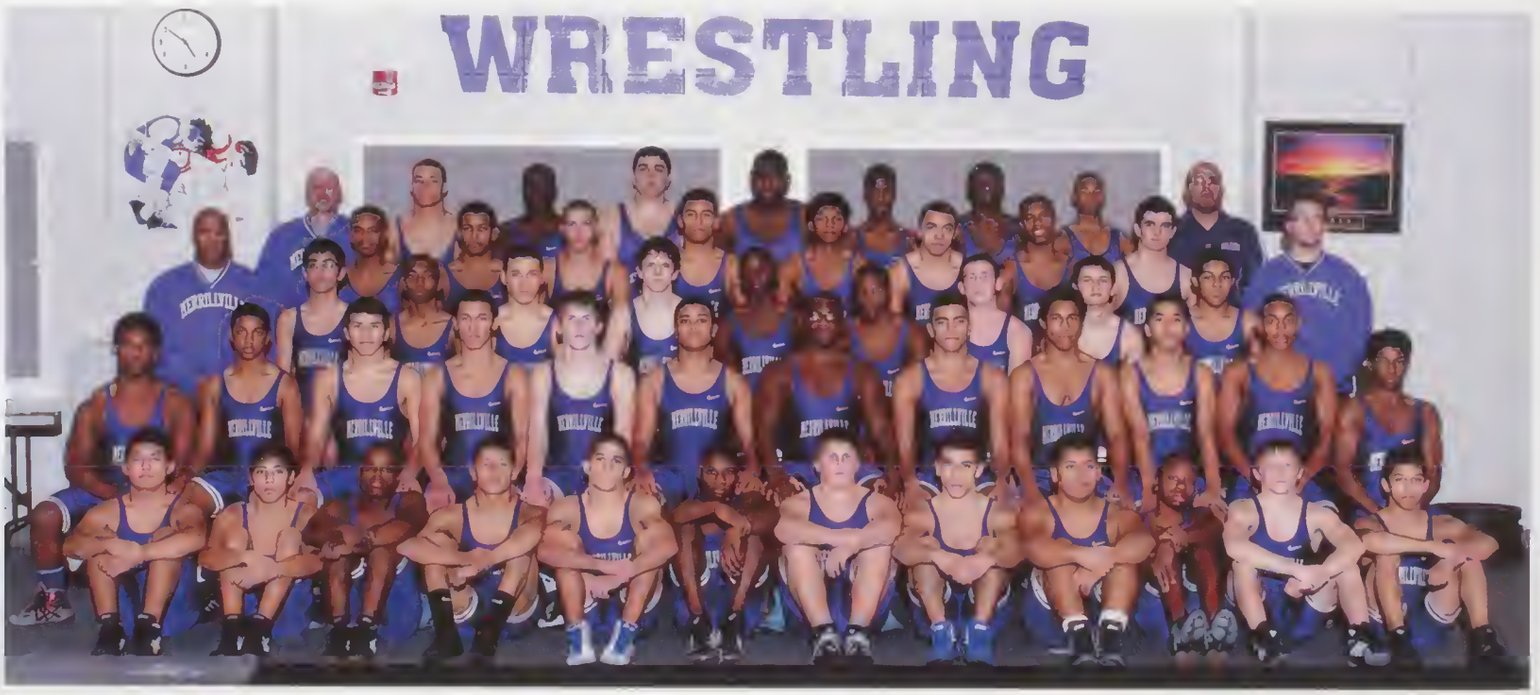
Coach: Cliff Hughes

Front row: Trayvion Smith, Michaud Cherry, Dionte Montgomery, Dylon Collins, Tyler Fuller, KirVaris Myricks. Back row: Khalil Buchanon, Tyrell Bullock, Coach Hughes, Devin Taylor, James Wright.

Girls' Junior Varsity Basketball

Coach: Luke Starkey

Front row: Shequida Dillard, Niesha Aaron, Selena Diaz, Ashley Hansbury. Back row: Summer Fields, Sheridan Parker, Coach Starkey, Riana Todd, Tadja Outlar.



Wrestling

Coach: David Maldonado

First row: Emmanuel Briseno, Miguel Tapia, Larry Clark, Adam Garcia, John Costakis, Devone Greer, Ryan Neligan, Michael Spudic, Andrew Merced, Justin Johnson, Michael Martin, Michael Garza. Second row: Darryl Peppers, Eric Davis, Eric Acosta, Al Padilla, Zach Sandefur, Marquise Manning, Michael Nickson, Robert Steveson, Michael Thompson, Ivan Jara, Thomas Butler, Adam Brodie. Third row: Coach Michael Lawrence, Mansoor Arifee, Elijah Coy, Eein Harmon, Nathane Polezoes, Stacy Martin-Ellison, Willie Armstrong, Jose Martinez, Joshua Walker, Johnnie Rivera, Coach Rob Petyko; Fourth row: Travone Norman, Carlos Jenkins, Matthew Hollins, Eric DeLuna, Jordan Diaz, Alejandro Jara, Devin Lee, Colton Maynard. Back row: Coach Gene Bierman, Kourtney Berry, Brandon Spencer, George Papamihalakis, Jonathan Tucker, Vejer Cox, Louis Williams, Jaylan Jones, Coach Maldonado.

Athletic Department Honors Standouts

During the annual Spring Sports Banquet, Seniors Lauren Carniella, Mansoor Arifee, Nakel McClinton and Kourtney Berry stand with their awards. Carniella and Arifee were named Scholar Athletes of the Year and McClinton and Berry were named Athletes of the Year Earning a 3.91 GPA. Carniella played golf and tennis for four years. In golf, she won the Leadership award her sophomore year and Sportsmanship awards her junior and senior years. Tri-athlete Arifee lettered in three sports, golf, tennis and wrestling, and earned a 3.88 GPA. Female Athlete of the Year McClinton played soccer for three years and participated in track four years and volleyball for one year. She has advanced to the state tournament in track all four years, and she will attend Indiana University in the fall on a track scholarship. Berry played football for four years and earned three letters, the Sportsmanship award his junior year and Leadership his senior year. He wrestled for four years, earning the Leadership award as a junior and MVP both junior and senior years.

Junior Varsity Softball

Coach: Kaitlyn O'Brien

Front row: Araceli Hernandez, Koeleigh Dentan, Indio Williams, Maryam Ali, Kaylo Brock, Koro Bromsan; Second row: Victoria Thompsan, Toriona Mobon, Manager Alison Fletcher, Tommye Nelsan, Isis Nash; Back row: Coach O'Brien, Andria Woodworth, Shana Sams, Kayla Akujobi, Angelica Navarro, Chloe Nelson, Coach Melissa Lopez.

Junior Varsity Baseball

Coach: Joseph O'Connell

Front row: David Orzechowicz, Terrance Greyson, Braxton Carey, Brett Deline, Ryan Brody, Joaquin Gomez; Back row: Coach Clark Sterley, David Hertl, Malcalm Donley, Jonathan Streck, Andrew Oams, Jose Ganzolez, Coach O'Connell

BEYOND THE STAGE

The lights in the Reinhart Auditorium shine on dozens of events and thousands of students throughout the school year. Seating 955 people, Reinhart Auditorium recognizes Jerould Reinhart, former choir teacher who modeled the auditorium after the Indiana University auditorium in Bloomington. Reinhart Auditorium was built in 1977.

At the Christmas concert, Sophomore William Akins III and Senior Taylor Carter throw their hands in the air along with the rest of the choir. "Every chance I get I practice," Carter said. Carter is in Advanced Choir. "I've been singing since I was four-years-old and I sing everyday all day," Carter added.

In the fall play "Design for Murder," Senior Jasmine Washington and Sophomore Conor Shea go over their lines at rehearsal. Washington, who has been in four plays since her freshman year, said "Before a play I go over my lines a lot and practice in front of people." This was Shea's first play and she performed a small part. "I love the rush you get before you perform. It is exciting to be a person you are not," Shea said.

BAND MIXES SAMBA, MAMBO AND JAZZ TO EARN THE GOLD

Band members chose "Viva Carnivale," a Latin-based showcase, for this year's theme.

Various music genres in the 2011 Marching Band show included samba, mambo, jazz and a Brazilian mix with a hip hop feel.

In competition sponsored by the Indiana State School Music Association in Crown Point, Kankakee Valley, South Bend and North Judson, Merrillville's marching band earned four gold ratings.

"The attitude of the students has improved. They came in ready to work and got the job done," Director Mr. Mark Danielson said.

Mr. Danielson said he made no changes, just kept the teaching, marching and playing style the same.

"The changes that were made, the kids made," Mr. Danielson added.

Over the summer, band members practiced one full week from noon until 8:30 p.m., and when school started, from 6 until 8:30 p.m.

The band stretched and learned techniques on marching.

"Reviewing the music, rehearsing and a good pep talk from Mr. Danielson is how I prepare for these competitions," Freshman Janel Bayler said.

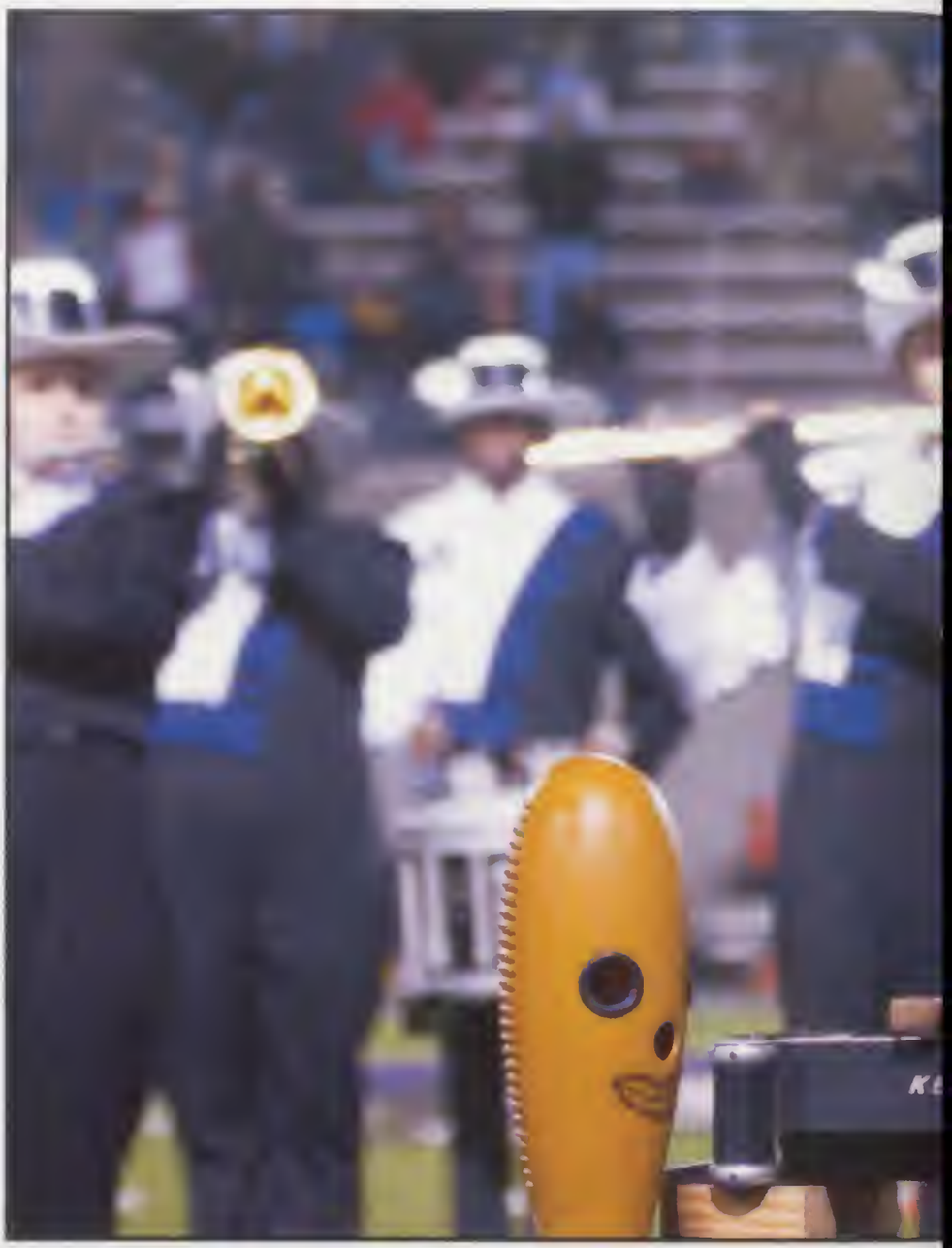
The band suffered the loss of 18 seniors, but the attitude of the freshmen is positive. Mr. Danielson said they came in this summer ready to work.

"They are excellent musicians. They improve everyday," Mr. Danielson said.

A lot of the students say that marching band may be challenging but also rewarding.

Each year a new class of freshmen adjust to the high school band.

"Learning the new marching material is the hardest part of band," Bayler said.



Stepping in sync with the flute players Junior Miranda Vega and Senior Cymeburhleah Hayes march in the 2011 showcase "Viva Carnivale." Vega said she wants to get the crowd going and keep improving.

Freshman Jaz Talley playing the clarinet at the holiday concert focuses on her music so she doesn't make a mistake. "I felt kind of nervous because I didn't have band first trimester so I didn't know what to expect," Talley said. With practices every Monday and Wednesday for two months, the band was prepared. "All of the Lights is my favorite song we played so far," Freshman Pierre Scott said

Band

"It was a bash" percussianist Sophamore Luke Rotley said. He said he was excited about his first performonce. "This was never something I was trying to da," Ratley added. This is Luke's first year playing the xylaphane and he has played the drums for eight years as well as the piano and bass guitar.

Playing at the halidoy concert. Freshman Anna Feliciano and Michael Robinsan concentrate on their music. "I've been playing since fourth grade because it sounded pretty and my mam played it in high schad," Feliciano said. The band practiced for the haliday concert for twa months priar ta the concert. "I wanted to da good. I wanted us ta sound good. I wanted us to sound the best we've ever played before," Robinson said.

At the first football game of the season, during halftime, drum majars Juniors Jessica Flares and Christa Flores conduct the 2011 Marching Band's showcase "Vivo Carnivale." "It was pretty exciting. We worked hard," Jessica Flores said.

Performing a technique called pizzicato, Senior Erin Weiss plays her bass to keep the orchestra on beat during the song "We Need A Little Christmas." "My favorite part of orchestra is probably the feeling of knowing we did something well and to the best of our abilities," Weiss said. "I also like going out to eat after the ISSMA competitions and talking with everyone." Weiss has been playing the bass since sixth grade.

During the holiday concert, Junior Kaelin Sanchez concentrates on her music while playing her violin. "I love playing the holiday-themed music and getting into the spirit of Christmas," Sanchez said. She also said the best part of orchestra is playing music and being with friends.

While Mr. Bradford conducts, Seniors Pauline Panayi and Nikka Sadural play their violins at the orchestra holiday concert. Both have been playing the violin since the summer before their sixth grade year. "I just liked the sound and heard people playing pretty music and I wanted to do that," Panayi said.

Orchestra

LARGEST ORCHESTRA QUALIFIES MANY MUSICIANS FOR STATE COMPETITION; FIVE SOLOISTS EARN GOLD

This school year was record-breaking for the orchestra as it had the most students ever, with 132 students in the three levels. Intermediate orchestra lead the groups with 56 students. There were also 27 seniors, which was the most orchestra ever had.

"They're an outstanding group," orchestra director Mr. John Bradford said of his seniors. Mr. Bradford is happy with the number of students; however, it created a few problems. "Size has created two performances at the holiday and spring concerts because we can't fit the entire audience in one."

Concerts include the MIS, Pierce and high school orchestras because he likes the younger kids to see the older ones and what they can become. Also, because there are only three levels and many more students than average, Mr. Bradford said it has been "challenging" in classes.

Throughout the year, the orchestra performs four concerts, as well as other performances at the Indiana State School Music Assocation district, state and festival, National Honor Society induction, baccalaureate and graduation.

In February, three small ensembles, six large ensembles and 111 performers qualified for the state ISSMA festival. All five soloists that qualified received gold medals, as well as five of the large ensembles.

Along with the record-breaking number of students, this year was special because the group traveled to Disney World in Florida.

"Every four years the orchestra takes a trip to Disney, so everyone gets to go once. We played in Downtown Disney over Spring Break," Senior violinist Pauline Panayi said.

With her archestra peers, Saphomare Kayla Sadural plays the viala during the holiday cancert. Sadural was selected ta the All-State Orchestra which consists of the best student musicians in the state. "Only nine viala players were selected and I will be fourth chair," she said "I feel very honored and proud of myself." Sadural hos alsa been a member of Narthwest Indiana Symphany Youth Orchestra far a year

As she laaks up at her music sheet Freshman Rachel Galante plays the cella during the holiday cancert "I really like listening ta the advanced orchestra" Galante said She is in the beginners archestra which played "The 12 Days af Christmas" "It's the Mast Wanderful Time af the Year" and "Christmas Cancertette."

Concerts, ISSMA present musical challenges

Music, choreography, class periods, after-school rehearsals, behind-the- scene technicians and dedicated directors all work together to bring concerts to Reinhart Auditorium. Little does the audience know what goes on backstage and how much work is involved in preparing for the numerous shows.

The three choirs present four concerts each year, and many hours of work are required. The holiday concert draws the biggest crowd.

"We started working after the October concert up until December," Choir director Mrs. Melinda Reinhart said. "Fifth hour rehearses on Mondays after school from six to nine, and the second and third hours work on the music and choreography during their class periods."

"Sounds of the Season" includes many aspects of everyone's religious affiliation.

"The concert included something for everyone. The concert presents not only 'Frosty the Snowman' and 'Rudolph,' but also includes the students learning religious pieces that they may take with them throughout their life," Mrs. Reinhart said.

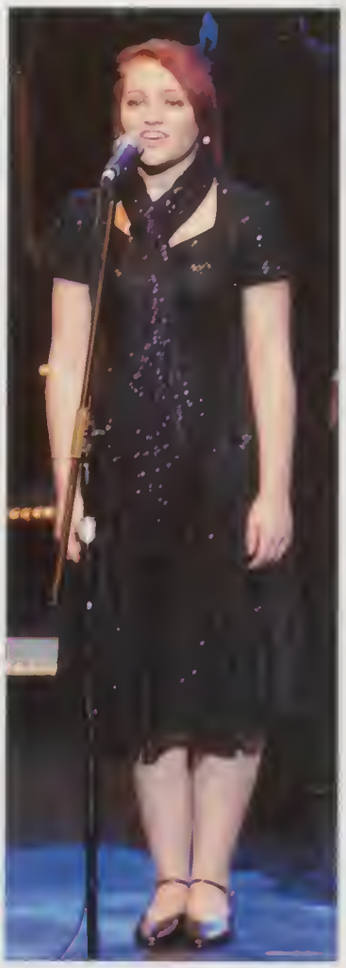
To improve the technical aspects of the concerts, the Performing Arts department purchased software that allows them to use videos with different light cues. The software helps also by saving money on buying and renting other backdrops.

"We are very fortunate to have my husband, Mike Reinhart, willing and able to help on the technical end of things, setting up the video projection and sequencing all the lights. He also helped his father, Mr. Jerry Reinhart, when he was the choral director," Mrs. Reinhart said.

On top of the work load of the concerts, Mrs. Reinhart must also prepare her students for their ISSMA competition in late January. "I want to see my students grow as individual singers and as a group. They all have set a goal for themselves to be the best," Mrs. Reinhart said. At ISSMA state, 17 soloists and seven ensembles competed. In all, 127 gold medals and one silver medal were received.

During the Revue members of the Vocal Teens performed the medley 'Dance Evolution,' which featured the song 'Greased Lightning' and several dances including the chicken dance and hokey pokey. The Revue is a fundraiser for the Drama Club that spotlights student talent

Two-stepping in sync, the students from advanced choir move to the music at the Christmas Concert. 'I sing every chance I get' Senior Brandon Wright said Wright and Senior Kandice Nicholson have both been involved in choir at MHS for three years. "I was happy to sing my solo, The Christmas Song." Nicholson added Seniors Adrian Weaver and Taylor Carter received a perfect score for their solo performances at the Indiana State School Music Association.



At the annual Christmas concert Junior Stormie Shilling sings a solo, 'Let It Snow.' "I have been signing my entire life,' Shilling said She has been involved in choir for four years and sang with the Vocalteens this year.

Choir

As he does each year, Mr. Jeraud Reinhort conducts the Hallelujah chorus os the finale to the annual Christmas concert Mr. Reinhort tought at MHS for 39 years and the auditorium is nomed is his honar.

At the Christmas cancert, the Varsity choir perfarms their twa pieces. Freshman Ashley Benkert soid "I love everything about choir ond I will continue to sing until I graduate" Benkert hos been in choir since fifth grade.

"The Choir Department is full of great talent ond it's a fulfilling experience to be o part of it " Senior Brionna Fatinas said Fotinos is a member of the Intermediate Choir thot perfarmed at the Christmas cancert.

Fall Play

Discussing their post, Detective Carlin (Sophomore William Akins III) recalls Celia Granger (Senior Jasmine Washington) and her history as a nightclub singer. Akins stated Carlin "was very dry. It took a lot of preparation to bring out his personality." He didn't mind having the audience watching from the view of the stage. "It was a little different from other plays, but it brings a connection between actors and audience."

Gossiping about the news of the murdered maid, Martha Brand (Senior Kayla Green) and Louisa Cortlandt (Senior Chardonnay Balkcom) discuss their concern for the Grangers. "Martha was into her physical appearance and she likes to flaunt. She acts younger than she really is, but I'm a more down to earth person," Green said. Balkcom said she had no problem getting into her character. "My character doesn't differ from me. She's a bubbly and overzealous person," Balkcom said.

In a conversation with his mother, Celia Granger, and reflecting upon recent events, David Granger (Senior Christopher McCoy) gets upset. In the play, Mr. Granger is the silent, keep-to-himself character. "It wasn't hard at all to get into character. We kind of have the same personalities," McCoy said.

After she arrived at the Granger home, Nora Taylor (Sophomore Conor Shea) talks with Marena (Senior Leonard Mathews). She is the replacement for Kathy (Freshman Sierra Vasquez McGee), one the former maids in the home. "I was upset at first that I didn't get a lead role, but when I found out how Nora had an important purpose, I was happy to play her," Shea said.

In the beginning of the play, Kathy (Freshman Sierra Vasquez-McGee) flirts subtly with David Granger (Senior Christopher McCoy). Vasquez-McGee said, "I thought the play was a success. I really had no acting history but I was lucky to perform in the play." She hopes to continue on in the Performing Arts Department until her senior year.

Just after Celia Granger (Senior Jasmine Washington) is attacked by Detective Carlin (Sophomore William Akins III), her son David Granger (Senior Christopher McCoy) arrives with Nora Taylor (Sophomore Conor Shea) after they heard her shouts for help. "I had to play serious throughout the play," Washington said

Audience views fall play from different perspective

In the fall play, "Design for Murder," by George Batson, the audience viewed the play from a new perspective.

Instead of sitting in the seats, the audience was able to view the play from the point of the stage itself. Drama Director Mr. Stephen Elser enjoyed the idea of having the audience up close.

"I like the performance as close to the audience as possible. If you put 100 people in 120 seats, it seems to make the audience larger," he said.

The play was chosen by Mr. Elser because of its style and the mood it sets.

"I wanted to do something that wasn't a comedy. And I liked the plot of this play," he said.

Rehearsing for the play took about six weeks, with the cast practicing their roles outside of rehearsal.

Every actor used a different approach toward preparing for the play.

Sophomore Nadia Duke played Mrs. Hamilton in the play.

"I had to practice not being expressive. My character had been at the Granger home for a while, so she's indifferent to everything," Duke said.

She said she studies her character's history in order to incorporate the information in the play.

Senior Kayla Green uses a similar technique. She said she reads the script constantly and uses a technique called visual memorization.

"Personally, I have a photographic memory for the most part, so rehearsing isn't too hard for me," Green said.

Audience members said they felt as if they were a part of the play.

Senior Alma Kukavica enjoyed the play, and she hopes to attend more in the future.

"I liked watching the play," she said. "It made me feel as if I was a part of it."

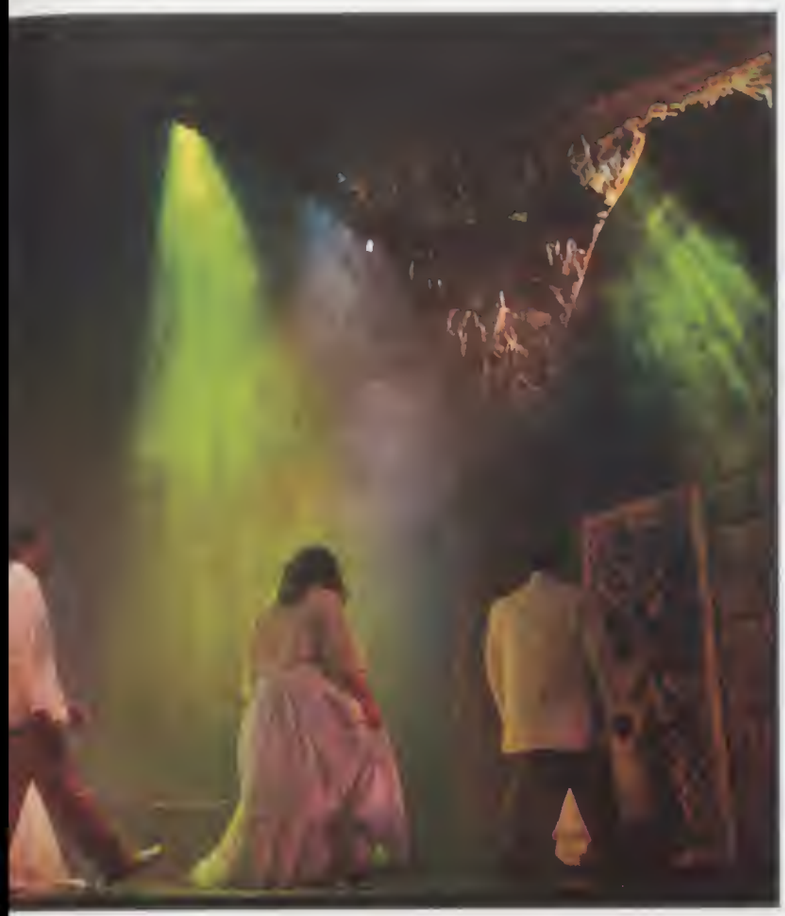
Coming in from her garden, Celia Granger (Senior Jasmine Washington) greets her friend Martha Brand (Senior Kayla Green) "It made me feel proud to have one of the lead roles," Washington said. She auditioned for the part of Mrs. Hamilton but was surprised to learn she was to play Celia

Spring Musical

During the scene of the Waltz Rose Lennox (Senior Chardonnay Balkcam) dances with her husband Albert Lennox (Junior Steven McGee). "The best part of the play was being able to sing with Seniors Taylor Carter and Kandice Nicholson for the last time," Balkcam said. The only trouble Balkcam had was making her entrance on time. "The play was a great success even though I had to deal with my ripped sleeve" Balkcam added

After leaving her maid, Mary Lennox (Senior Kandice Nicholson) sees Ben Weatherstaff (Drama Director Mr. Steven Elser) and has a conversation about spirits. "It was funny when he was talking to me, because he was acting like I was "blonde". It was more of a humorous scene," Nicholson said. During her performance years at MHS Nicholson gained a lot of experience through acting and singing. "My future plans are to start off in theatre, then teach music after I win my first Grammy Award" Nicholson added. She said she had a great time performing in the musical because she loves both singing and acting

Playing the flute, Saphomare Steven Stout is seated beneath the stage for the spring musical "The Secret Garden." Stout is in advanced band and has been playing the flute since the sixth grade. "I feel that the hard work paid off because after weeks of learning new music it could finally be appreciated."



Cast and stage crew turn Reinhart Auditorium into garden

"The Secret Garden" was an impressive follow-up to last year's challenging musical, "The Phantom of the Opera."

Although the show put on five different acts, the audiences did not match the talent during each show. About 100 people attended each performance.

"I was disappointed in the audiences because after last year's 'Phantom' we expected those crowds to come back," Director Mrs. Melinda Reinhart said.

"The Secret Garden" took two months to piece together and rehearse. The first month was dedicated to teaching music and designing sets, while the last month and a half was blocking, setting up lighting, making sets and perfecting scenes.

"The set was heavily relied on to help tell the story and make scenes," Mrs. Reinhart said.

The cast was composed of 29 students, 12 that had lead parts, and the other 17 either held small parts or were in the chorus. A pit orchestra of 30 provided accompaniment.

"The chorus actually helps tell the story in 'Secret Garden.' They don't just come out for big dance numbers. They inform the audience on what is happening," Mrs. Reinhart said.

A cast that can sing and act is important. Having students create the illusion of being in the garden or getting props together is just as vital to every performance. The stage crew worked on sets alongside cast members. They turned the garden's towers and made sure curtain and rope cues were in order. Twenty people assisted with lights, sound, backstage and props.

"I was very pleased with the outcome of 'Secret Garden.' They exceeded my expectations both vocally and theatrically," Mrs. Reinhart said.

During the play Colin (Lucas Reinhart) meets his mother Lilios Craven (Senior Taylor Carter) for the first time. Carter said she enjoys working with other students. "The worst part was memorizing the lyrics," Carter added.

Singing "Skip Skip the Lady" Junior Adanis Smith makes hand gestures to be an beat with the song. "The best part of the play was the first part because I opened the play" Smith said

Meeting Mary Lennox (Senior Kandice Nicholson) for the first time Archibald Craven (Senior Adrion Weaver) talks about his wife, who is Lennox's aunt. Nicholson said she enjoyed the story and the funny parts of the play. "My advice to future actors or actresses is to be over the top, make yourself the character you're portraying, believe everything you're saying in your lines and always do extra" Nicholson said

Advanced Orchestra

Director: Mr. John Bradford

Front row: Miguel Lagunas, Caleb Sonchez, Inesha Smith, Natieka Mathews, Emma Harper, Allison Gronli, Anthony Chamberlain, Michael Rhoades; Second row: Kaurtney Woods, Khari Coker, Alyssa Nymeyer, Imani Smith, Kayla Sadural, Lauren Carniello, Shaquita Dillard, Allyiah Williams; Third row: Erin Weiss, Lauren Blackwell, Conor Shea, Brianna DeCausemaker, Lacey Richards, Nikka Sodural, Jessica Vasquez, JeanPierre Cardenas, Lauren Kiser, Caitlinn Caddick, Alyssa Ahrens; Fourth row: Briana Walker, Pauline Panayi, Megan Wilkerson, Daniel Tarulis, Aerieyle Peterson, LaTanya Harrisan, Brooke Wilson, Morgan Lamb; Assistant Director Mrs. Diane Kowalski; Back row: Mr. Bradford, Antonia Gomez, Kaelin Sonchez, Alex Murga, Jasmine Washington, Avery Sameshima, Lauren Harding, Brandi McSwain, Mia Patikas, Aurielle Powell. Not Pictured: Keith Sadural, Cameron Grundy, Sheridan Parker

Intermediate Orchestra

Director: Mr. John Bradford

Front row: Eduarda Yanez, Damian DiGangi, Andre Mathis, Victoria Miller, Dorothy Williams, Isis Nash, Kyle Nymeyer, DeShay Vinson; Second row: Marcus Bass, Jasmine Gruchmal, Vanessa Yanez, Mariana Cantu, Makenzie Pearson, Doris Marteen, Mantriel Shell, Anthany Turner, John Irak, Emily Gronli, Almanaemi Acosta; Third row: Maryann Ali, Lawren Williams, Kelli Wright, Violet Lipscomb, Briah Stinson, Elizabeth Niño, Rachel Baran, D'Shae Brown, Jonathan Tucker; Fourth row: Natalia Ooms, Matthew Hill, Brianna Cole, Jessica Mireles, Kayleigh Champion, Sobrina Carroll, Alexis Deter, Cynequa Crass, Melanie Atria, Victoria Frey, Krista Thomas, Naeemah White, Alanza Brown, Ashlin Gibson; Back row: Brandan Bass, Chase Mihal, Tam Hagan, Khayla Reid, Zachary Garalczyk, Nathan Fles, Brandy Blackman, Asianna Peterson, Myranda Harris, Makayla Webster, William Perry, Olavi Locke, Colton Maynard.

Beginning Orchestra

Director: Mr. John Bradford

First row: Angel DeLaCruz, Alejandra Jara, DaeJa Pinkins, Keanu Soto; Second row: Aaliyah Smith, Tamera Julkes, Jannel Boyd, DeAndrea Mitchell, Khaila Sonchez, Mr. Bradford; Third row: Da'Ja'Nay Askew, Jayla Lewis, Mantes' Pirtle, Maniel Sonders, Courtney Taylor, Mariah Robertson; Fourth row: Carly Degard, Kayla Akujabi, Janae West, Elicia Garnella, Lindsey McCain; Back row: Nadia Wright, Elijah Coy, Isaiah Alleyne, Kennedy Nunn. Not pictured: Rachel Galante

Advanced Choir

Director Mrs Melinda Reinhart

First row Demasha Kelly Chardannay Balkcam, Sebastian Arreala Steven McGee Adrian Weaver Tany Carter William Akins III Khari Reed, Dana Callins, Ashley Williams, Brittany Edmand; Secand raw Kiera Shackelfard, Sarah Bernard, Salena Pena Brandan Wright, Wayman Cruse Devan Reed, Starmie Schilling, Cassandra Gavert, Taylar Carter Third row. Victaria Callins, Jocelyn Recia, Shawnay Lardydell, Lenzie Wilkins, Adanis Smith Melody Harris, Shy Ora Talbert Jazmin Janes, Kandice Nichalsan; Back raw: Leeah Cooper Tatiana Ruiz Jaleesa Holmes, Kayla Greene, Patricia Spikes, Valencia Smith. Nat Pictured. Erik White

Concert Choir

Director· Mrs. Melinda Reinhart

First raw: Morgan Archibald, Shavanne Nelsan, Kierstyn Hartlerode Jasmin Pollard Carnell Tucker Damanique Smith Shelby Halden, Rebekah Mangald Tyshay Dass, Secand raw: Dasiy Davis, Brianna Fatinas, Napri Fandren, Zhanique Hudsan, Nikell Dabadee, Harald Gage Britney Platts, Jasmine Jahnsan Jaelah Washingtan; Third row· Elizabeth Lang, Daryl Taneff Arrisa Allen, Aliza Crawford Jacab Butler Alexander Lapez Emily Racha Angelica Erskine Brittany Williams, Debarah Shoulder· Back raw: Hallyann Erskine, Janelle Taylar, Daminique Dearing, Damynek Jahnsan, Kendra Palk Diana Vargas.

Beginning Choir

Director. Mrs. Melinda Reinhart

Frant row Cassidy Koontz, Surrae Rabinsan Hape Waganblast Kaylee Rass, Sarah Bradash, Alysha Halley Kimber Brawn, Alaila Lewis, Ciara Stevensan Jessica Halmes; Secand raw: Ashley Benkert Claret Diaz Cynthia Basu-Chavez Glaria Hall Pearea Marshall Victaria Sansone Wynonna Waganblast Natavia Lenair Vera Wilkins Larrita Rass Quanishia Vaughn; Third row. Terica Bethal Alexandra Castra Amanda Rivera Dylan Crane Jardan Dawns Jacalby Harris Jakqwuan Chandler Angela Duan Robyn Jacksan Chelsea Williams Back raw: Kamara Thamas Linda Basemore Margan Bayd Analiss Rasa Jacab Harris Nigel Moore Elaija Mayo Rebecca Koeppl Briana Frazier Ebony Beasly Samantha Triplett.

Advanced Band

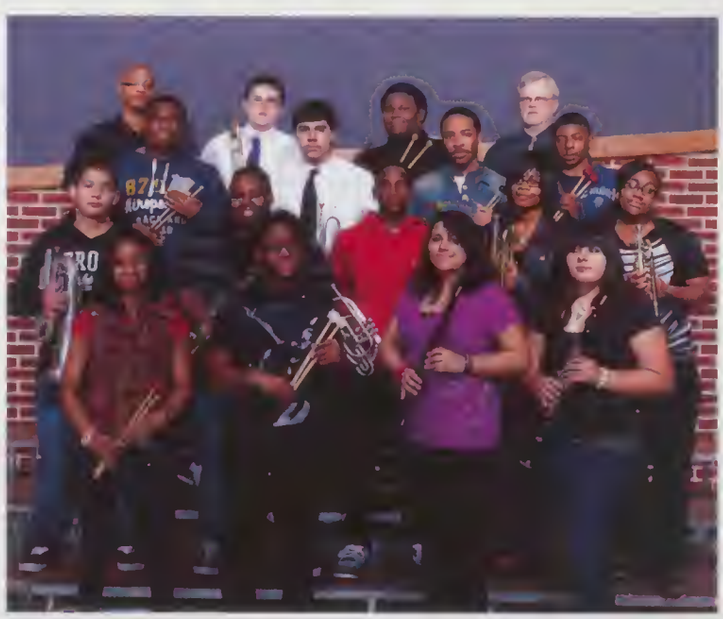
Director: Mr. Mark Danielsan
Front row: Cymeburhleah Hoyes, Alysso Ross, Breyanna Turner, Mikailo Lomax, Isabello Stevens, Charis Burgstohler, Ashley Ahlborn, Kelsey Ahlborn; Second row: Colin Evans, Steven Stout, Molcolm Pitts, Darius Dabodee, Christo Flores, Miranda Vego, Corlysle Lorson, Charizma Jacksan, Billy Fields, Dorne Bell; Third raw: Eugene Rogers III, Kotelyn Hoddaway, Luke Ratley, Kean Gibson, Tyler Shockey, Jacab Swierc, Jacob Styx, Christion Brunski, Jose Medina, Fourth row: Travante Cooper, Jardan Dioz, Corey Weatherspoon, Alyo Shelton, Daniel Lipp, Randall Bultemo Jr., Alexander Swierc, Adam Sherwinski; Back raw: Mr. Danielson, Timathy Shelton Jr., George Popamihalokis, Austin Jomerson, Kevin Semmes, David McKinsey

Beginning Band

Director: Mr. Mark Danielsan
Front row: Roino Robinson, Samantha Keith, Morgan Lesich, Jonel Baylor; Second row: Lawrence Willioms, Daiyon Bryont, Justin Potton, Tyler Westbrook, Justin Johnsan, Cameran Brocey, Brandan Mizanin; Third row: Ruben Maldanado, Donald Long, Julian Bell, Marguerite Culbreath, Chloe Nelsan, Joyan Hunter; Fourth row: Na'Jvia Caruthers, Denzel Young, Morgan Harris, Jaz Talley, Reese Gibson, Anna Feliciana, Micha Burgstahler; Back row: David Lewis, Mitchell Brayfield, Orlondo Lapez, Reynaldo Borojas, Xayvian Williomsan, Ethan La Belle, Pierre Scott, Mr. Danielson.

Intermediate Band

Director: Mr. Mark Danielson
Front row: T'Aira Anderson, Alandria Shuffard, Ana Hernandez, Tahanna Gaana; Secand row: Emmanuel Briseno, Deyjhauna Clark, Nicholos Hayes, Janell King, Amaretto Hudsan; Third row: Aaron Sanders, Korlos Pocheca, Baris Williams, Terrance Dabdee Jr.; Back raw: Ranell King, Bradley Brayfield, William Smith, Mr. Danielsan. Nat Pictured: Gregary Williams Jr., Diomond Gray.

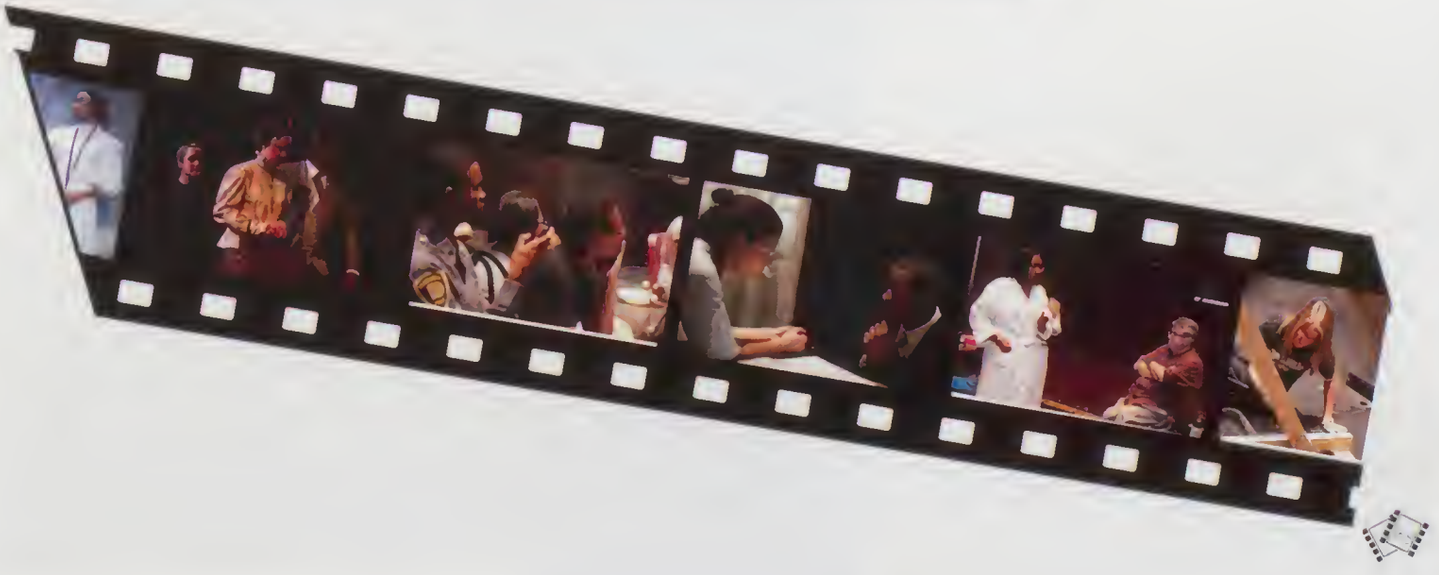


Jazz Band

Sponsor: Mr. Mark Danielsan
Front row: Calin Evons, Lawrence Williams Ashley Ahlbarn Morgan Lesich, Jessica Flores, Jane Boylor Second row: Louren Blockwell, Julian Bell Taylor Warell Kathleen Murphy, Comeran Brocey, Cymeburhleah Hayes, Third row: Darme Bell Korlas Pacheco, Eugene Rogers III, Jacob Swierc Tyler Westblook, Back raw, Randy Bultema Travonte Cooper Carey Weatherspoon Mr. Danielsan.

Thespian Troupe #1692

Director, Mr. Steve Elser
Front row: Kate Murphy Conar Sheo, Sierra Vosquez Taylor Carter Koylyn Isan Shelby Holden, Kandice Nichalson, Chardonnay Balkcam; Second row: Mr. Elser Imoni Shelby Christopher McCoy Hannah Bailey Yvan Anguiono, Alisan Nowok Allyssa Mihal; Third row: Tremoel Morgon, Adrion Weaver Josmine Washingtan, Hallyonn Erkine Megan Austin, Koyla Grant, Kiera Shackelford; Back raw: Jashua DeLean William Akins III Trovonte Cooper Alexander Dailey.



BEYOND THE GOODBYES

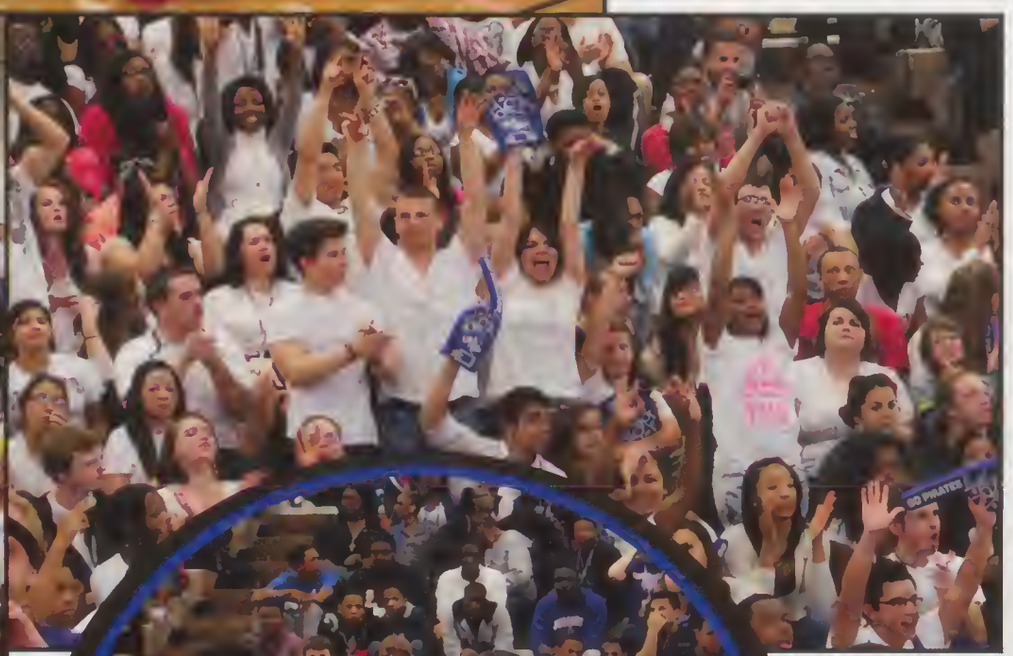
Jumping for joy Seniors Paul Carey Logan Hubbard and Trent Turner cheer during the girls basketball team's Senior Night. Some of the football players decided to show their support by body painting. "My biggest memory was doing all the crazy chants and dances The girls won that game and I am glad I got to witness it" Carey said

At the Star Plaza Theatre on Graduation night Seniors Danielle Abel, Sobrina Abrams and Ana Adame wait patiently for their turn to walk across the stage "For me walking across that stage was happy and sad It was saying hello to a new world with new memories to be made but also saying goodbye to those who had already created the best ones" Abrams said.

During the 2012 Homecoming Parade Seniors Zachary Sandefur Jacob Jara and Daniel Jimenez cheer on the senior float themed after the Video Music Awards. "I wanted to be a part of the parade because it was my senior year my last chance to represent our class for Homecoming It was fun to be with all my friends. They are like family and I will never forget them" Jimenez said

Senior Faculty Basketball Game 2012

Receiving a pass faculty member Mr. Anthany Hafer gets ready to dribble around a pick set up by Mr. Jasan Kendero "I had a lat af fun during the game. I did expect ta win, but the best part is seeing all the seniars in the stands laughing and having a good time" Mr. Hafer said



With his hands raised high in the middle af the seniar sectian during the annual Seniar/Faculty Basketball Game Seniar Nick Badali enjoys his last celebration with the Class of 2012 "I had fun. It was nice to have the class come together one last time before graduation It was definitely a good memary" Badoli said.

As Mr Zac Wells holds the ball, Seniar Jared Knox and Mr. Sean Kinsey prepare far the tip off to begin the game. "I was surprised at haw clase the seniars gat but the faculty pulled away quickly and easily" Mr. Wells said "I just wanted to play my best and shaw aff far the seniors" Knox said.

& Dodgeball

Fighting to the finish, Seniors Edgar Guadarrama and Brian Walker on "Team Greatness", stand together to try to bring their team victory. "If we would have had more teamwork, we could have done much better and went further in the competition" Guadarrama said.

"acing the apposing team alone Senior Lexus Saez prepares to throw her ball. She was the only girl on her team "Big Kaunas" and was left to stand alone after the faculty had taken out all the boys. "When I was the only one left everyone started to cheer me on and chant my name. I felt really special" Saez said.

As the 2012 school year came to a close, seniors began to look forward the annual end of the year activities. Two of the most anticipated events included the Dodge Ball Tournament and the Senior/Faculty Basketball Game.

"I was excited to hang out with all my friends, get out of class and have a fun rivalry against my senior classmates," Senior Zachary Sandefur said.

As in the past, the outcome of both was the same and the teachers reigned victorious. Senior Dodge Ball Team, "The Cool Kids and Bruce" took on the faculty team, "In Wells We Trust," during half time of the basketball game and lost with one senior left standing, Ian Stacks.

"I expected to win. Even though the seniors did get ahead, the staff pulled away easily in the second half," Coach Zac Wells said.

After a faculty victory, the senior dodge ball champions, "The Cool Kids and Bruce" shake hands with the faculty. When the senior team, "Men of the Year," was defeated by "The Cool Kids and Bruce," they were excited and ready to play against the faculty "I was really excited to go against Coach Wells and all the other football coaches," Senior Michael Dicken said.

At the ready, dodge ball team "Babbalas" gets set to run to the line. Members include Seniors Zachary Sandefur, Darryl Peppers, Adam Brodie Michael Nicksan and Jacab Jara. "Our team name come from freshman year during a wrestling practice. I would say this ward to keep everyone working hard"and on track." Nicksan said.

One of the all-girls team "A Bad 6" huddles together for a group picture. Members of the team include Seniors TaChina Smith, Jalisa Masley, Kayla Lee Rosalyn Baker Raven Snelling and Arriana West. "Actually deciding to form a team and making it past the Penny Wars was definitely the most memorable moment for me" Smith said

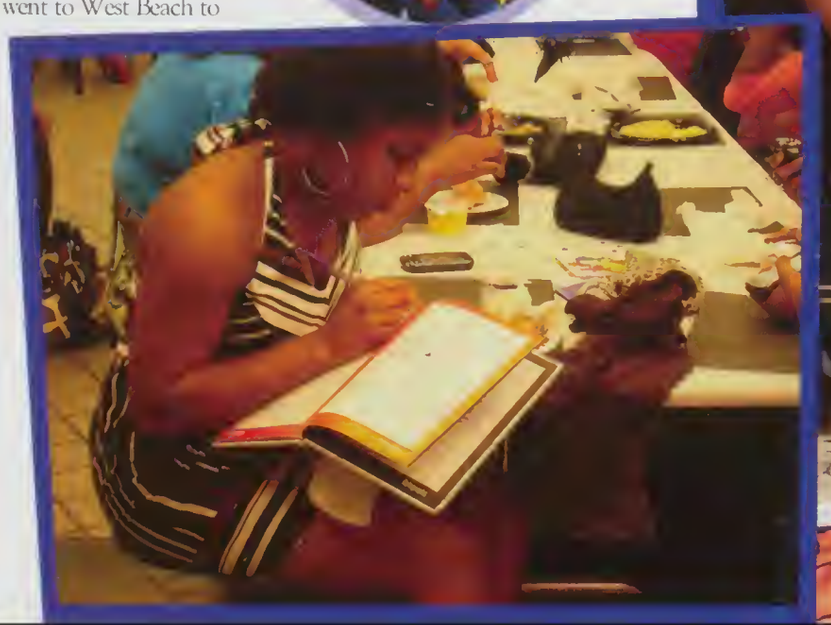
Senior Breakfast and Drive-Around

During the annual Senior Breakfast, Seniors April Bailey, Jase Ganzalez and Byanca Marquez enjoy each others company. "My best memory from senior breakfast was when the choir sang 'we are young'. It was very emotional and I even shed a tear" Bailey said.

The Senior Breakfast and Drive-Around was a fun time before graduation for the Class of 2012 to come together and celebrate all the hard work that they have put into their education for the past 12 years. Enjoying a variety of breakfast items, watching the senior video, taking tons of pictures and then going outside to show off the "hot ride" was a great time. It gave all the seniors a chance to make some wonderful memories.

"I have been looking forward to my senior breakfast for a long time, basically when I started freshman year. My best memory from Senior Breakfast is being with everyone and driving around the school with my friends. I love Class of 2012," Senior Joyce Negron said.

After the drive-around many went to West Beach to celebrate.



Waving and smiling, Seniors Spree Lang, Tasia Harris and Tatiana Harrell participate in the 2012 Senior Drive-Around.

...e been friends since ...have this ...lestone in ...said

Baccalaureate

The Class of 2012 marked graduation from Merrillville High School with Baccalaureate May 20 at the First Presbyterian Church and Commencement May 30 at the Star Plaza Theatre.

Baccalaureate is a non-denominational religious celebration honoring graduates, while commencement officially pronounces the seniors graduates.

In his speech at Baccalaureate, Social Studies teacher Mr. Dan Moslander talked to graduates about potential.

"Using your potential and gifts to chose a career will ensure that you will love what you do and you will impact this world," Moslander said.

Graduation was the final step for the class. Long hours of studying and numerous projects all resulted in being able to graduate high school and to participate in the 86th annual graduation ceremony.

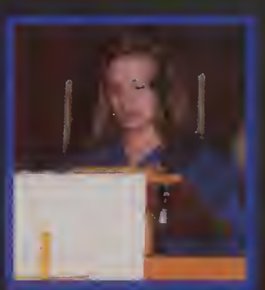
Three valedictorians and one salutatorian addressed the graduates along with class president Mansoor Arifee and class treasurer Samuel Gubitz. Seniors Nichole Anderson, Alyssa Nymeyer and Luqmann Ruth gave valedictory addresses and Lauren Kiser gave the salutatory speech.

Social Studies teacher Mr. Daniel Schoon was selected by the class to speak at graduation.

Seniors Kandice Nicholson and Adrian Weaver sing "The Prayer" during Baccalaureate ta the Class af 2012. "The song we chose to sing was universally sentimental and did not only appeal ta one religion. It was relevant ta graduating because the song was a prayer asking for God's blessings as we depart high school until we meet again," Weaver said.

Chosen ta be the speaker at Baccalaureate far the Class af 2012, Mr. Dan Maslander preaches about the power of potential. "I was approached by Mr. Mizmo and he told me that I was picked by a group of students ta speak at Baccalaureate. I was not sure which group af students he was referring ta, but it must have been a group of seniars. It was an incredible ceremony with beautiful music. I was very impressed," Mr. Moslander said.

Senior Speakers

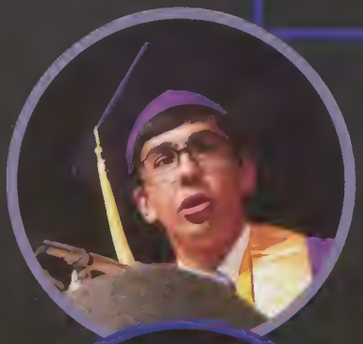


Valedictarian Alyssa Nymeyer reads from Proverbs and speaks ta her classmates about the power af religian.

Senior Joseph Drapeau reads the stary af Dovid and Goliath from the Bible and encourages students ta embrace their futures.

Graduation

Class President
Mansoor Arifee



With a comic relief beginning that faded into a more sentimental and serious speech, Class President Mansoor Arifee addresses the graduates and their families.

The first valedictorion to speak at graduation was Nichole Anderson.

Smiling at the audience, Solutatarion Lauren Kiser gives a very honest speech. "I was so nervous when I found out I had to give a speech in front of 3,000 people! So in my speech I decided to tell everyone just that and exactly why I did not want to give a speech. However, after I finished and sat back down at graduation, I wished I could have done it all over again," Kiser said.

In her address, Valedictorian Alyssa Nymeyer speaks her mind about rebelling against the norms of society.

With a speech full of shout-outs, Valedictarian Luqmann Ruth thanks everyone who has impacted his four high school years.

Salutatorian
Lauren Kiser

Valedictorians
Nichole Anderson
Alyssa Nymeyer
Luqmann Ruth

In his speech at graduation, history teacher Mr. Daniel Schoon holds up his finished "like so" paper, a way that Mr. Schoon taught vocabulary in his class. Mr. Schoon was chosen by the Class of 2012 to be the speaker at commencement. His speech included numerous shout-outs to students and advice to students as they leave high school.

At the end of commencement services, Seniors Jasmine Cleveland and Khari Coker await the release of balloons from the rafters of the Star Plaza Theatre.

As Seniors Mansoor Arifee and Luqmann Ruth show a picture of the proposed scoreboard renovation, Class of 2012 treasurer Samuel Gubitz announces the Class of 2012 gift to the school

Senior Choice Awards

Most Popular
John Mosley and Belia Mercado

Best Smile
Rodney Mitchell
and
Jeanette Burbage

Best Eyes
Mercedes McClendon and Anthony Palm

Best Body
Paul Carey and Megan Dicken

Most Athletic
Kourtney Berry and Nakel McClinton

Best Dressed
Charles McGee
and
Aries Edwards

Most Likely to Stay Friends

Pauline Panayi and Morgan Lamb

Mathew Harms and Zachary Roberts

Most Musical

Kandice Nicholson and Erik White

Most Spirited

Trent Turner and Danielle Abel

Most Likely to Succeed

Alyssa Nymeyer

and

Luqmann Ruth

Best Dancer

Donneisha Owens

and

Sir-James Joiner

Best Car
Anthony Disco and Alejandra Mata

Most Likely to Teach at MHS
Morgan Lamb and Leonard Mathews

Cutest Couple
Donneisha Owens and Kourtney Berry

Most Intelligent
Nichole Anderson and Luqmann Ruth

Best Personality
Christina Brown and John Mosley

Most Likely to
Become Famous
Belia Mercado
and
Brandon Neal

Class Clown
Alonzo Charles
and
Mercedes McClendon

Best Hair
John Dates and Davina Anthony

Most Actively Involved
Lauren Carniello and Mansoor Arifee

Best Actor/Actress
Adrian Wawrzyn and Taylor Carter

Most Talkative
Rosalyn Baker and Trent Turner

Most Spiritual
Joseph Drapeau
and
Alyssa Nymeyer

SENIOR CHOICE AWARDS

Adrienne Butts
Class of 2012

Congratulations

We are proud of you!!
From your friends
in Arifjan, Kuwait

Adrienne Butts

Love You Always,
Mom

You are mommy's Navy girl. I am so proud of you!!!

Adrienne Butts

Your smile defines beauty at its finest.

You have the heart of an angel, with a soul so pure, and sweet.
You are one of God's most precious gifts that he has bestowed upon the world.

Yet, He blessed me with the opportunity to love and nurture you, like only a father could.

Your birth gave me more joy
than any other accomplishment in my life.

Your first smile melted my heart
as only you could do.
And now I know what I always thought is true.

Angels in Heaven do not compare to your beauty, so graceful and adoring.

Your personality is among the finest,
so bright and rewarding.
Your compassion for others, is remarkable and defines the young lady I dreamed you would become.

You are a father's dream come true.

Stay true to yourself for you are my precious baby, and I love you.

Dad

Adrienne Butts

As we look back over the last 18 years,
it is hard to believe the time has come
for you to begin the next season of your life.

We are so proud of you and
the many accomplishments you have made.

No matter where the road of the future takes you,
I know success and happiness will follow.

The world is yours. Grasp each oppurtunity and
stay true to yourself.

We love you,
Uncle Carl, Auntie Shug and Tamara

Adrienne Butts

"Just Us Three"

Love you always,
Big Sis Averiel
and
Lil Brother Anthony

Merrillville Athletic Department

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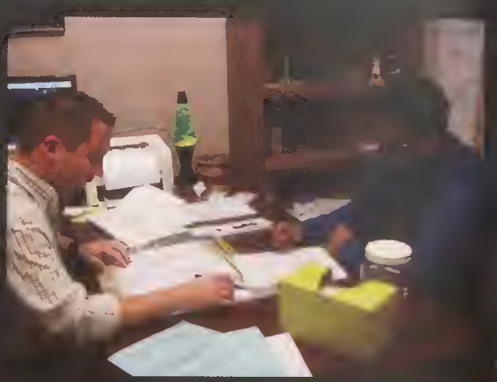
A place for autographs



Handbook

Giolas photographer John Bir focuses his camera on Juniors Alejandro Perez and Jasmine Johnson as they pose for Buddy Pictures. Each spring Student Government sponsors the event over several days.

As they dance to Chubby Checker's "The Twist," Senior Erik White and Mrs. Melissa Sickinger strut across the stage. New this year was a "Dancing with the MHS Stars" competition, sponsored by the Performing Arts Department. Sickinger and White won the coveted Purple Mirror Ball and each received a $25 gift card.

Ready for the annual Northwest Indiana Special Education Cooperative Senior Transition Breakfast are Seniors Kindall Rollins, Ashley Reynolds, Terrance Johnson, John Farmer and Amon Searcy with Mr. Brian Hebert. The breakfast honors graduates throughout the co-op and is held at Our Lady of Consolation Parish.

Each year Student Government members sponsor a field day for elementary school students who have won a door decorating contest. Juniors Stephanie Barnard, Julie Ross and Kasie Antich greet students as they get off the bus at Pruzin Park.

Socializing at the Roots and Wings brunch is Senior Nakel McClinton with her mother, Mrs. Natalie McClinton and Mrs. Gail Nicolini. The National Honors Society sponsors Roots and Wings each year for the top ten students in the senior class.

Seniors Gregory Brousseau, Michael Jones, Dane Ezernack, Tyler Kepchar and Leonard Matthews advertise tuxedos for Prom. Every year during Prom season different companies advertise their tuxedos through students.

In a last minute attempt to study more for her AP Literature and Composition exam, Junior Amy Aponte reviews a literary terms sheet. The goal is to earn a score of three or higher to obtain college credit.

To prepare for graduation night, Junior Zachary Fles prints the programs on the offset press in the Graphic Arts room. These programs include a list of all the 2012 graduates. Guests receive a program when they enter the Star Plaza Theatre.

One of the end of the year activities is the annual Senior-Faculty basketball game. Making up their game plan are Seniors Jared Knox, Anthony Disco, Coach Rovon Turner, Erik White and Brian Walker. The game is always held the Friday before Spring Break.

Mrs. Margaret Stallings runs Scantron tests through the machine for the last time. Mrs. Stallings, Mrs. Maryette Petras and Mrs. Debby Onika are all retiring this year after a combination of 70 years.

Planning for next year begins in early February as guidance counselors meet with students. Mr. Greg Geimer and Junior Dominick Tucker go over options as he plans his year.

A spring project for the Environmental Club was to start a garden. Mrs. Jennifer Leek, her son Zac and Senior Michael DeVany work together to plant vegetables.

From the earliest days of freshman year, students anticipate the final days of senior year, when they pick up their caps and gowns from Mrs. Debbie Klippel. Senior Isabel Hernandez was second in line.

Sophomore Megan Austin cleans out her locker of old schoolwork and other miscellaneous items as she prepares for the end of the school year. This is a ritual all students can relate to. If the students do not do this task then it is left to the custodians to finish over the summer break.

During the annual Awards Night sponsored by the Guidance Department, Senior Morgan Lamb takes a moment to smile for a photo. Awards night recognizes student achievements in each academic area. Scholarship awards for seniors are also presented.

At year's end.

A Note From The Editor

As members of Quill and Scroll, the Indiana High School Press Association and the National Scholastic Press Association, the Merrillville High School yearbook staff presents this 87th volume of Merrillvue.

Under the guidance of Mrs. Teresa Procter and led by co-editor Amber Smith, the third hour yearbook class chose to look deeper into the lives of students. We wanted to create something that was not just a yearbook. We wanted to present stories that looked beyond the obvious.

First and foremost, the staff would like to thank Mrs. Procter for her intuition, patience and guidance in producing this yearbook. Without her assistance, this yearbook would not be possible.

Mrs. Valerie T. Tanke, a sales representative for Walsworth Publishing Company, also assisted in the creation of this book. The staff thanks Mrs. Tanke for her help.

Thank you to HR Imaging Partners Inc., who took the underclass and faculty portraits. The yearbook staff also thanks Mr. John Bir of John Giolas Photographers and his staff for taking all the senior portraits and the sports, clubs, dances, graduation and senior choice award pictures. We are grateful for his willingness to attend school events in order to photograph and capture moments that will now be remembered throughout the yearbook.

To create this book, the staff used Walsworth Online Design, Microsoft Word and Adobe Photoshop CS5.1 with fonts including Palatino for all stories, Maximo for all captions, scoreboards, page numbers and cover fonts, and for headlines, either Palatino and Cameron.

Books were sold in school and online at yearbookforever.com. After an introductory price of $55 until October 1, the price rose to $60 until December 22, books sold for $65 until the end of May.

The 2012 yearbook staff gratefully acknowledges the assistance from the Athletic Department directors, staff and coaches, the secretaries of the Main Office and Student Services, the Guidance Department and all the teachers whose classes were constantly interrupted. Thanks to Mr. Brian Past and the PNN staff for their assistance for advertising this yearbook.

A special thank you to Brandon Baldwin, Bradley Brayfield, Rebecca Broom, Joseph Cowser, Samuel Gubitz, Jacob Larson, Elizabeth Long, Mia Patikas, Cassandra Govert and all the others we forgot to mention who have aided in the production of this book.

The staff decided "Beyond" the obvious was a theme we could work with. The first step was to create a ladder that would keep the book, and the staff, organized.

Looking at the task ahead of me, I was a little nervous only having one year experience in yearbook class, but everything came together. With the help of Melissa Eggleston in first trimester and the rest of the yearbook staff, we were able to make most deadlines and keep the flow going.

Toward the end of the year, the staff was busy with making sure everything was done.

With the help of the staff and their ideas, some stress was lifted off our adviser Mrs. Procter and me. The stress within the members of the staff often caused disagreements. But in the end, we pulled ourselves together and just focused on the book and making it how we wanted.

Creating the yearbook is not as easy as one might think. Page after page, the book became more and more presentable.

Of course, the staff and I didn't do it by ourselves. None of this would have been possible without the guidance and patience of Mrs. Procter. I learned a lot more this year than last year because of my job as the co-editor. Organization was the key to making deadline and not falling behind.

Yearbook Staff

Front row: India J. Williams Second row: Honnah Lane, Amy Aponte, Graciela Ortiz, Amber Smith, Katy Guzek, Jolynn Brown, Ashley Gray, Gabrielle Williford, Angelique Oyervides Back row: Joseph Cowser, Kathryn Sarsfield, Melissa Eggleston, Kristina Goodman, Breyanna Wilson, Nakel McClinton, Noim Muhammad Not Pictured: Holey McDonie, Lauren Kiser, Kaitlyn Cygon